

CLOSED
UNTIL

1986

C.O. 67/363

90853 PVI

1949

No.

90853 - PVI ✓

SUBJECT

Maltese in Cyprus.

CO 67/363/8

Cyprus.

1949

S
234

1

Previous

90853/49

PVI

Subsequent

1950

Action required on (59) is

1. To make an official announcement in Cyprus to
freedom unions. The draft announcement (~~attached to~~
to Encl II) is sent to cons.

I do not think we can agree the final sentence
of Appendix III to Encl I. if an announcement is made in Encl I
but F.O. will have to give last word. In para 3.
of (59) A/Gov. points out that non-Maltese will be
excluded. This we have agreed and have informed
F.O. that aliens are unacceptable. (V.158) on PT I/49.
to allow further repatriations to Greece and Turkey
is contrary to F.O. policy (V.122) on PT II/47)
and ~~the~~ the point is made in our dispatch
at (20) on PT I. (V. para 8.). On the other
hand the A/Gov. is surely correct in saying
that he cannot prevent a refugee leaving
for Turkey or Greece whose papers are in order.
What we mean is presumably that they should
not be encouraged and this runs counter to
para 5 of (59).

2. An answer to the charge that when the Maltese
were sent to India they went to the
exclusion of the Cypriots in Greece.

I do not know the answer and it is the
first I have heard of it but this will take
time to research. ? Reine for this problem.

3. Para 6. of (59) speaks of legally repatriable
Maltese to Malta. No Maltese ~~is~~ ^{living} ~~in~~
abroad is in this category, technically they are
all entitled to go back ~~providing~~ ^{provided} they can
satisfy the terms of the Immigration Ordinance
none can, they are therefore legally non-
repatriable.

4. a telegram authorizing the transfer
of these materials from the Jewish camps
to the administrative camps. Presumably
Treasury concurrence will be necessary in
view of financial settlement of the Jewish
camps.

3

I think an early meeting next week is the best
solution, meaning 4. above could be settled.

JSL
7/5.

Dup.
Copy of (59) & enclosures to Foreign
Office (K. G. Ritchie. Esq. Consular Dept)

Copy of (59) & of enclosure No 2 to
Treasury (W. Field Robinson)
with compts.

And vice to me.

MF

TV stores

60 To K. G. Ritchie Esq (4/0) Dup 59 & Enc Compts 9-5-49

61 W. Field Robinson (Esq) w/c 59 & enclos II Comps - 10/5/49

Mr. Bennett.

Please see (59) & Mr Lloyd's
minute above. I have now discussed with
Mr Lloyd.

We should, with luck, be able to
clear by telephone within the next
two days the two most pressing

points: (i) approval of the draft announcement
in Cyprus (enclosure 2) (ii) authority to
C.J.C. to release the relevant
Jewish Camps. As regards (i) I
think we should be guided by
the Cyprus authorities in the matter,
or approve their draft without
further hesitation.

If you agree we will tackle
this first.

Then is then the question of
whether any Ms who wish to
leave Cyprus should be allowed to
do so. This affects the terms of
the announcement to be made
in Eritrea. See paras 3 & 5 of
the S. gram & Appendix III. It seems
to me obvious that the present
system should continue. I think
we should press F.O. & Tsy to agree
to the arrangement the O.H. suggests,
with a corresponding amendment to
Appendix III. (Something like
"Persons who have applied to go to
other countries will be able to
do so on the same terms as at
present: viz. they will be required to
produce evidence that they can support
themselves or be supported there; and
in the case of Greece, Turkey, etc.
Egypt, to recognise that they will forfeit
to receive relief as put in as a J.B.S.
is forfeited. The same facilities as regard
passage money will be provided as hitherto.)
In such cases this might be covered by (Mr.

I don't see why we should have a 5
meeting about it.

We can then deal with alleged
favouritism of Maltese over Cypriots,
provisions of the Malta immigration
order, the non-^{Maltese} ~~comparative~~ ^{comparative} ~~disposition~~ ^{disposition} & compliments
Mr. Sutton. ~~at the~~ ^{at the} ~~disposition~~ ^{disposition}.

If you agree in this will go
ahead on these lines.

MF-
10 v.

1. Announcement

I agree that the A/Gov's draft
of the Cyprus announcement is acceptable
and should be approved provided the
other Depts. concerned ~~agree~~ ^{concur}.

I also agree that A/Gov. should be
authorised to issue it at his discretion
as early as he likes, and that it need
not wait till after an announcement
in the camps in Entrea. But equally
I think it would be wrong to delay
the announcement in the camps until after
(or at any rate more than 24 hours after)
the announcement in Cyprus. The news
may have leaked out in the camps, but
the inmates have a right to be told
their fate officially not later than
the rest of the world gets it. If their
first real notification was from Reuters
or the BBC there might well be

complaints leading to P.Q.'s and I do not know how the S.D.S. would be able to answer them. We are dealing with British subjects, not with alien refugees, and the House is understandably sensitive on these matters. We must therefore aim at simultaneous release (or near offer), Eritrea taking its time from Cyprus. F.O. should be asked to agree + arrange accordingly; and arrangements made for Cyprus to notify all concerned of the release date (not forgetting Inf^y Dept. here, who should have a copy when the time comes, though no official release in London is necessary).

That will, I recognise, bring the text of the Eritrea release into the category of urgent things. Mr Dutton has done a draft (App. III to his report) what he left in Asmara. F.O. should be asked to concur in this + authorise Eritrea to issue it on the release date (provided other Depts here concur in its contents). As regards last para of the Eritrea announcement, see later.

2.

Authority to use equipment etc from Jewish camps

No in apaid ris
has to go to Sir G.C.
I have discussed
with Mr. Nicklin &
dispatched accordingly.
disposed of. is nothing
do with the A(Gov)
M 11v

I agree, but to save confusion I think the authority should be given to the A(Gov). (to pass on to Sir G. Collins as necessary) and not in a separate telegram to Sir G. Collins.

3. Maltese wishing to leave Cyprus after arrival

In (20) we recognized that the Cyprus Govt. could not impose restrictions on their leaving the Island which were not at the time in question imposed on other British subjects resident there (see para 8). There is therefore no need for the A/Gov. to get hot up as in para 5 of (59). I see no objection, and every advantage, in perpetuating in Cyprus whatever practices have been applied about this subject while the party were in Eritrea. The trouble is that the W.O. & F.O. had never confessed to us (if indeed they knew) that arrangements as described at para X in para 7 of Mr Dutton's report were already operating. They misled us into supposing that return to Greece etc was heavily frowned on, and allowed us to draft our initial despatch to the A/Gov. on that (misleading) assumption. Depts. concerned should therefore be asked to agree to para 5 of (59). If they are willing to agree quickly, the relevant paragraph in the Eritrea announcement (amended as suggested in Miss Fisher's minute) can go out with the rest. If they want time to think it over, then the last para of the Eritrea announcement

had better be deleted. It is not essential to tell the camp inmates the form on this point before they leave Entrea, though it would be useful to be able to do so rather than leaving it for the Cyprus Govt. to tell them. But we don't want the announcement timetable held up for clearance of this point if it seems likely to be a slow one.

4

Excluded categories

- (a) Aliens
- (b) Non-Maltese British (if any)
- (c) Repatriable Maltese (if any)

There is no reason why Cyprus should receive any of these, even temporarily. F.O. should be asked, following up (58), to tell Entrea that they should be separated from the rest and not shipped to Cyprus; and we should tell A/Gov. this. Entrea ought really to get this instruction before their announcement is made in the camps, because the draft of it refers to "Maltese" and they may well get questions from the marginal cases as soon as the announcement comes out.

If the position of category (c) needs time to clear up, owing to the

need to dig up Maltese legislative etc., (see no objection in the last resort to Cyprus being asked to accept them temporarily in the hope of sending them on to Malta later. Do this if it is simpler. But categories (a) and (b) must certainly stay behind, whatever their ultimate fate.

5. Compts. to Mr Dutton

This could well be noted in a final para if we are going to send a tel. to Cyprus anyhow.

6. "Favouritism"

Agree - consider at leisure.

J.S.B.

10/5 above.

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------------|----------|
| 60. | Mins J.R. Butler (F.O. A.A.T.) | _____ | 12.5.49. |
| 61. | Mins J.R. Butler (F.O. A.A.T.) | _____ | 12.5.49 |
| 62 | To Cyprus | Tel 315 Conf
Priority | 14-5-49. |
| 63 | A.S. Bonnici | _____ | 1/5/49 |
| 64 | Tel 71 Depth from F/O to Amara | _____ | 5/5/49 |
| 65 | Tel 81 Depth from Amara to F/O | _____ | 7/5/49 |
| 66 | Commissioner for Jewish Camps - tel 21 | _____ | 11/5/49 |

67 Cyprus — tel 282 Sec — 13/5/49

10

68 Cyprus — tel 283 Sec — 13/5/49

69 boune Jerish Camps — tel 75 Sec — 12/5/49.

70 Cyprus — tel 289 Sec — 16/5/49

71 Cyprus — — tel 290 Sec — 16/5/49.

72 Cyprus — tel 285 Sec — 14/5/49.

73 Cyprus — tel 321 Secret — 16/5/49

74 Cyprus — tel 329 Sec — 17/5/49.

(63) (64) (65) — these two latter

connecting with (61) — (67) (70)

& (71) may be put by.

checked.
Repeated to
Asmara.

Would registry check urgently
that (68) has been sent to F. G.
for repetition r. Asmara?

Then recirc to C.S.D. Mr S.H.H.
Vaughan: who may know what has
happened to Mr Walker (72) & how
to get hold of him? Please keep tel
in rd throughout! & recirc for (69)

Mf

18 v
19/5

S.823E

Please attach P.F. of G.R. Walker (Pal. Police)
If in circ. could you please obtain it urgently

Mr Vaughan P.F. of G.R. Walker 72817CR attached
19/5
S823E 20/5/49

* If C.S.D. is able
to sound him direct.
so much the better. We
can't quote a salary
yet.

Miss Fisher

I have spoken to Mr. Adolph of the Palestine Police Office about Mr. Walker. Apparently he called at the P.P.O. a couple of days ago and had heard of the possibility of his return to Cyprus to look after the new camp. He seemed very keen on the idea and Mr. Adolph tells me that the answer to both (a) and (b) of (72) is "yes".

His present address is:

" , Wold St.,
Norton,
Malton, Yorks.

The P.P.O. are writing to him to ask him to keep in touch with the C.O. in case he changes his address.

Joanham
20/5/49.

I have sent off a rel.

Mr. Nicklin.

Is not (69) rather far
your pp? If so perhaps you
wd. have it transferred; &
rec'd. to Mr. Lloyd to consider
whether any further action is necessary.

MF
21.V.

75 To Cyprus - Tel 313 brief

22-5-49

Miss Fisher.

I have removed this 69 to Palestine
papers and I will as you suggest refer the question
to Mr Lloyd.

W. H. H. H.
M.F.

Miss Fisher

Draft opposite covers the two outstanding
points raised in (59). We are asked to supply
the legal reasons why they could not be used Malta
& the draft makes no mention of the current
employment position, position of other distressed
Maltese etc.

5/5/49 25/5.

~~76~~ to ~~happens~~. — ~~Feb. 10. 34.3~~ — ~~12.5.49~~.

76 Cyprus Ser. 459 Conf 31-5-49.
Appendix (Immigration Ordinance No 1
of 1948 & Aliens Ordinance)
(ans 59.)

77. Kuter's message - 1001.
78. Comm. Jewish Camps - Tel. No. 33 Secret - 12.5.49.
(Orig. on 16.5.49.)
- 79 F.O. Administration of African Territories - 16.5.49.
- 80 F.O. to Amara. - Tel. No. 97 Dept. - 16.5.49.
- 81 F.O. to C.A. Amara. - Tel. No. 98 Dept. - 16.5.49.
- 82 Gov Cyprus Tel 366 2/6 ✓

Miss Fisher

Recirculated with F.A. on draft of (82).

Johnson
2/6.

Mr Lloyd agrees that (79) need
not be sent to Cyprus. This being
so (77)-(82) inclusive may be
put by.

Mr
Zvi Aronson

Note

all correspondence issued
by Cyprus in this case to
refer to the 60th Vote.
Please keep up to date info.
of anything which may have
an effect on our liability

Sub

83 To Cyprus. — Tel. No. 385. — 10.6.49.
(Dft. on 46240 4/68.) 14

84. To Cyprus — Tel. No. 413 Restricted 23.6.49.

85. Extracts from Cyprus Political Situation Report for May, 1949.
(Orig. on 90215/49)

Mrs. Fisher
M. S.W. Smith
M. Bennett
to See Incl. to (84).

? For by.

SL 29/6.

MF 29.6

by 29.6

JH 29/6 chm.
—/✓

86. ~~To Cyprus~~ Tel. No.

86. Cyprus — Tel 667 Saving — 7.7.49.

87. Cyprus — 3pm. — 9.7.49
J/c

88 Asmara to F.O. Tel. No. 261. 14.7.49.

89 F.O.O.A.T. — Tel. No. 27704th. & F.O. — 26.7.49.

90. *to bypass.*

Sub. No. 485

27.7.49.

15

Miss Fisher,

File returned from

on (87).

Acts. with no action

taken on 26/7/87)

Ha 2/8

No action is called for

MF

9 viii

9/9 91 *to H. J. Ritchie (Secy.)*

9.8.49.

9 88, 89, 90

may be put by.

92. Inform. Dept. — Reuters' Report — 30.7.49.

Put by. (88, 89, 90

an all outward fets on wh. no
action is required).

MF

10 viii
stus

8.

93. Foreign Office (G.H.S. Jackson) - K.7625/107/250 - 31.8.49.

H453

94th Cyprus Soc 766 Conf

6 SEP 1949

attach

13139/107/250 vide

para (3) of (93).

1531.

3/4.

[Handwritten mark]

C.I.(N)G.

95. Home Office

D. a/clos.

20.10.49.

Mrs Fisher.

I have extreme sympathy with the
Governs of the Cyprus Mail.

? Send to Cyprus L/F for appropriate
action.

ESL 21/10.

Yes. ~~Copy~~ Original of letter below
(95), and attached press cuttings, to
go to Gov. Cyprus (F. as proposed).

[Handwritten initials]

22/10/49

96 Cyprus Dispatch 227 L/F 25-10-49.
w/ send to 95 incing. 8 press
cutting w/attached

[Handwritten mark]

97. Gov. Cyprus. — Despatch No. 123 — 2. 12. 49.

Accounts Department may wish to see 97 which holds out a poor prospect of the Maltese in Cyprus being able to fend for themselves at any date. Should this despatch be sent for information to the Treasury? If not, I suggest that no action is required beyond a short acknowledgement? as in draft opposite.

MF

M. Fisher.
15.12.49.

At the meetings which I attended the Treasury representatives were naturally anxious that all possible steps should be taken to get these people to work and then reduce the charge to be borne by Govt. The local govt. is doing its best in difficult circumstances but it seems clear that Malta is saddled with considerable charges for many years to come.

I think that Colonel Russell Edmunds should have a copy of (97) and should answer in the proposed reply.

St. John 16/12

I agree but I do not think there is any need to refer the draft to Treasury. I would merely send Col Russell Edmunds copies of the comm. for information.

Baynes 16/12/49

S. 319 to put a copy of (97) but not enclosed in 4246 of 15.

↓ Action later
B 23/12

✓ 98 Cyprus Dispatch 267
(ack 77) *bono*

20-12-49.

99. To. Lt. Col. W. R. Edmunds (Troy) - copies of (97) + (98) Dumps - 22-12-49.

100. To. Lt. Col. W. R. Edmunds (Wsy.) - Dumps as cft. - 9.1.50.
(Dft. registered on 424C Mco.).

~~But~~ no reply to 98.
O.O. Flood. 31/1.

No reply is expected. of (100).

MF

2.1.50

Miss Fyfe.

File was B.U. in respect of
no reply to (98). ? Continue to wait.

Sir
1/2.

(100) shows that the only part
that expected a reply has in
fact been answered on accounts
pp. Put by. MF

2 ii. *rems*

Accounts Department,
1 Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street, S.W.1.

94853/49
PTI

DA a.

424C.

9 January, 1950. 19

IF.17/19/05.

Dear Russell Edmunds,

Would you please refer to the previous correspondence on the question of expenditure in Cyprus in connection with the distressed British subjects of Maltese origin.

Miss Fisher sent you on the 22nd December a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Cyprus in which he reported on the steps so far taken to provide for these evacuees. I now enclose, for your information, as promised in the notes to the draft Colonial and Middle Eastern Services Estimates for 1950/51 - see Subhead C.16, a copy of a Savingsgram No. 1284 from the Governor enclosing details of the approximate expenditure to the 31st October, 1949, and the estimated expenditure from 1st November, 1949, to 31st March, 1950, and 1st April, 1950, to 31st March, 1951, totalling £91,835.

Authority for expenditure under each item is covered by our despatch No. 41 of the 2nd March, 1949, (which was approved in Field Robinson's letter of the 24th February, 1949) and our telegram No. 248 of the 13th April, 1949 (which was also approved in the Treasury).

The estimated total expenditure to the 31st
(PR2) / March,

W. RUSSELL EDMUNDS, ESQ.,
H.M. TREASURY.

March, 1951 is £91,835 and provision has been made under subhead C.16 of the draft Colonial and Middle Eastern Services Estimates for 1950/51 for a round sum of £92,000.

As we have indicated in our despatch to the Governor No. 267 of 20/12/49 we are satisfied that the problem is being handled by Cyprus in the best possible way and that steps are being taken to ensure that the charges to be borne by His Majesty's Government are being kept to the lowest possible figure.

In your letter of the 6th July, you asked me to let you know whether we would be able to make a substantial payment to Cyprus before the close of the financial year. In this connection you will see from our statement of savings and excesses enclosed in our official letter (191B A/cs) of the 29th December that we shall not find it possible to do so.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) (G. Bryant).

COLONIAL OFFICE,

90853/49

Your Ref: 1230/149

The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.CYPRUSNO. 267

20 December, 1949 98

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your despatch No. 123 of the 2nd December reporting on the Maltese evacuees transferred to Cyprus from Eritrea.

2. It is clear from your despatch that these persons are likely to prove no less hard to dispose of than was originally feared and that you expect considerable difficulty in inducing even the able bodied to support themselves. It is equally clear, however, that the problem is being handled with vigour and efficiency; and I am sure that all possible steps will be taken to keep the charge to be borne by the Colonial Office to the lowest possible figure: a matter of some importance in the present difficult financial position. I should be grateful if you would make those concerned aware of my appreciation of their efforts.

3. I should be glad to receive the detailed estimate of expenditure to 31st March, 1951, as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

(Sgd.) A. CREECH JONES

[601B] Wt. 36325/814 50m. 1/49 C.N.Ld. 748

C. O.

Miss Fisher 15 xii

Mr. S.W. S. 16/12

Mr. Bryant 17/12

Mrs. Fisher 16 xii

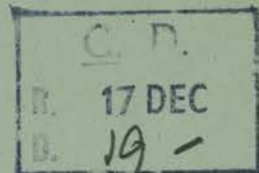
Mr.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. S.

Minister of State

Secretary of State



98

20 DEC 1949

Your Reference 1230/149.

DRAFT. DESPATCH.

Sir,

GOVERNOR,

CYPRUS.

No 267

(97)

I am ^{have etc} directed by Mr. Secretary Creech Jones ^{acknowledges} to ~~accept~~ your despatch No. 123 of the 2nd December reporting on the Maltese evacuees transferred to Cyprus from Eritrea.

2. It is ^{very clear} ~~clear~~ from your despatch that these persons are likely to prove no less ^{hard} ~~difficult~~ to dispose of than was originally feared. ^{and} I note that you expect considerable difficulty in inducing even the able bodied to support themselves. It is ^{very} ~~clear~~ ^{clearly}, however, that the problem is being handled with vigour and efficiency; ^{and} I should be grateful if you would make those concerned aware of my appreciation of their efforts.

I am, Sir, ^{have etc}

Your obedient servant,

FURTHER ACTION.

Copy to S.319.

Copy of 97 xii
 C. P. Mas. (Col Russell
 Annas) ref. (99)

(Sgd.) A. CREECH JONES

90853/49

97. 14.8.

23

CYPRUS.

No. 123

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

NICOSIA, 2nd December, 1949.



Sir,

I have the honour to report on the steps so far taken to provide for the Maltese evacuees who were transferred to Cyprus from Eritrea.

2. Although these people were accepted with the intention of assimilating them into the life of the Island it was first necessary to concentrate them in a camp where they could remain until plans for their more permanent settlement were ready. One of the guard camps close to the former Jewish Illegal Immigrant camp at Xylotymbou near Larnaca was chosen but, as existing huts were insufficient to accommodate the numbers, additional buildings had to be taken from other parts of the Jewish Camps and re-erected on the selected site. In addition to living quarters, offices, sick quarters, recreation rooms, a school room, and a dining hall were provided. Supplies of water and electricity were arranged and simple furniture such as bedsteads, tables and chairs was bought. The accommodation is not luxurious and probably below the standard of the camp they occupied in Eritrea but it is adequate for its temporary purpose. Communal messing was arranged through a contractor but after their arrival the Maltese, who in Eritrea received a food allowance and catered and cooked for themselves, asked to be allowed to follow the former practice and their request was granted from the 1st September.

ackd 28

The Right Honourable
ARTHUR CREECH JONES, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

/3.

3. A Mr. G.R. Walker, formerly of the Palestine Police, who had come to Cyprus in 1948 in charge of a party of German Templar refugees was appointed as Camp Commandant and took up his duties on the 1st July, before the arrival of the Maltese, in order to superintend preparations. The Chief Administrator, Eritrea, was informed that the camp would be ready by the end of July and it was agreed that the party should not arrive before then. He was asked to ensure that all the immigrants were inoculated against smallpox, typhoid and yellow fever.

4. The camp was ready for occupation before the end of July and this proved fortunate. The authorities in Eritrea first stated that the party would arrive early in August, later named the 1st August as the date, then advanced it to the 31st July, and finally, in a telegram delivered after the party's arrival, changed it to the 30th July: the party arrived on the 29th July. It was then discovered that reduced shipping rates had been obtained on the strength of a promise that the disembarkation would be completed within 12 hours of arrival. This condition was fulfilled but, in the absence of proper notice of the time of arrival, at much inconvenience. Similar inconvenience had been caused earlier by lack of precise information from Eritrea on the movements of a small advance party which travelled by air.

5. The Maltese were installed in their camp with some grumbling from themselves and hostile comment from the local press such as had been expected. The original announcement about the party was made on the eve of the municipal elections and therefore received less attention than it would have done otherwise. The arrival of the persons gave the newspapers an opportunity to attack the Government

and criticism was more sustained and detailed than before. A representative selection of extracts from the daily summary of the local press is enclosed.

6. The party has now been in the Colony for four months and has settled down without giving much trouble. They are being provided with the same facilities as they had in Eritrea and are being paid similar allowances adjusted to conform with local conditions. (The subsistence allowance at first paid proved to be excessive and served to deter those who were offered employment from accepting: it was therefore reduced). A camp school has been started for the children and arrangements have been made for a priest to attend to the spiritual needs of the community. Day to day administration is in the hands of the Camp Commandant who is responsible to the Commissioner, Larnaca. The Commissioner of Labour has been charged with the task of formulating plans for permanent settlement and he will be responsible for putting them into action when they have been approved.

424/4 Acc.

424 Acc

7. In response to your telegram No. 674 an estimate of past and proposed expenditure has been sent to you by my telegram No. 549. I shall furnish in the near future details of the amounts mentioned and outline the proposals for settlement and training which will account for part of the expenditure. It is my aim to liquidate the camp as soon as possible and to disperse the occupants throughout the Island. The aged, sick, and unemployables should be found homes and paid relief allowances; those who are able to work must be trained and placed in employment, probably with the assistance of resettlement grants.

8. All males and females between the ages of 16 and 60 have been interviewed and registered. An analysis of the registration shows that only some 120 persons out of a total of 394 are employable: some of these have been craftsmen or might become craftsmen, and some have owned small businesses but none has ever worked on the land. Many of them still hope to be allowed to emigrate to the Dominions or reiterate their desire to return to the Balkans. Efforts made to place in employment some of the men who do not require any training have failed. The candidates refused the jobs offered stating that they were not interested in finding work in Cyprus. This is one of the problems to which the Commissioner of Labour is attending and, as is mentioned above, a reduction has already been made in the subsistence allowance in order to induce the able-bodied to look more kindly upon work.

I must record my impression of the extreme unlikelihood of these people achieving any form of self-support. They will not be generally acceptable to the local population and, as experience of them here amply confirms earlier reports of their shiftlessness, I cannot encourage any hopes that may be entertained that our efforts to assimilate them will meet with success.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

A. B. W. J. G.
Governor

"Hur Soz" (18.5.49).

An editorial note sharply criticises the Government decision to allow the resettlement in Cyprus of some 400 refugees - vide yesterday's Press Release. "At a time when Cyprus is undergoing economic convulsions and unemployment and thousands of its inhabitants are flocking to Australia in search of work, to allow strangers, especially those who have no means to support themselves, to settle in Cyprus is quite unreasonable." The note recalls the desperation and misery of several trades-men after the competition created by the refugees admitted into the Island during the second world war, and considers that the prospective refugees should not be allowed to practise their trades or professions and that the number limit of 400 should not be exceeded, in order not to worsen the economic condition of the Island.

"Neos Kypriakos Phylax" (19.5.49).

Writes under the title "The hotel of Cyprus": "The official release which announces, with an air of sympathy and kindness, the settlement in the Island of 400 persons of Mediterranean origin, descendants of the Maltese, has reinforced the view which we, the Cypriots, formed a long time ago that the ruling Power regards this Island as a hospice where it can accommodate whomever it wishes and whenever it so wishes. In no way are we an anti-foreign people, nor do we remain apathetic at the sight of persons who fall victims to Fate and to an unfavourable course of events. But to regard Cyprus as an hotel where the ruling Power can accommodate those who command its gratitude or whom it wants to support touches our sensitiveness. The most natural course for these "descendants of Maltese" would be to be settled in the country of their ancestors no matter if they have forgotten the tongue spoken in the Island to which they belong ethnologically; or, at least, in England the interests of which they have served in this or the other way. Malta provides a Mediterranean environment, like that of Cyprus, and it is suitable for men in whose veins the Maltese blood is running. Or are there any reasons why these men of Maltese extraction should be undesirable in Malta and consequently unwelcomed? In any case, we think that a further explanation must be given by Government for the enlightenment of Public Opinion, which does not agree with the retention of Cyprus together with the other British Colonial Stores and with its conversion into an Hotel with a placard "Cyprus": an hotel where hospitality is given to-day to dangerous Jews and German prisoners of war and will be given to-morrow to English families in a "military village" and the day after to-morrow to the descendants of Maltese and we do not know to whom else."

"Eleftheria" (20.5.49).

Reproduces the following from the Athenian newspaper "Ethnos": "The announced settlement of 400 Maltese in Cyprus, who had been transferred to Eritrea from Greece and Turkey in 1941 as a result of the German advance, is not, of course, going to alter the national character of the Greek large Island. But it constitutes a characteristic manifestation of the mentality of the British, who regard Cyprus as a colony which they can use

for anything. In the present case the most natural course would be for the Maltese to be sent to Malta."

An editorial note states: "So we shall extend hospitality to 400 men who, most probably, did not know the existence of Cyprus until some time ago. And we shall offer them the chance "of returning to normal life," i.e. of settling permanently in Cyprus since this is the decision of Government which has been approved by the London Authorities. Where these foreigners lived before is not made clear in the recent release which suggests that some of them were settled in Greece and the European Turkey. To Greece - the release adds - it is impossible for them to return owing to the particular conditions existing there, but the release does not mention Turkey altogether, which neither knew the war nor is it sustaining the armed Slav plot. So Cyprus was regarded as the most suitable place since, what's more, these future inmates of the Island have forgotten their Maltese tongue and they speak only Greek and Turkish. That which is going to follow can be understood easily. Returning "to the normal life" in the course of time - what matters if the Island is scourged by unemployment and poverty? - they will form a small nucleus of foreign origin and so the "minorities" in Cyprus will be increased. Did not the never - to be-forgotten Baron Winster speak, in his famous Message, about minorities, in the plural, while it is a fact known to all that the existence of only one minority is recognized in Cyprus?".

"Ethnos" (28.7.49).

An Ed. resents the transfer of 400 Maltese refugees to Cyprus. It says: "Why not send these people to Malta? Astute Albion believes that by the dumping process it will be possible to alter the Island's ethnological character and that in the event of a referendum the votes of foreigners might be secured for the purpose of strengthening the anti-Enosis struggle. But this method is out of date. The people's feelings cannot be altered by such processes".

"Eleftheria" (28.7.49).

Like "Ethnos" this paper, too, resents the presence of Maltese refugees in Cyprus. It says: "The official statement says that these refugees will be installed at Xylotymbou for the present. What does this mean? It means that they will be made to learn Greek and will later be thrown amidst the native community in order that they might compete with the Cypriots in the struggle for bread. If this is the unconfessed object why, then, are they being punished by being shut up in an internment camp? Maybe this is another case of undesirables. If so, why are they brought to Cyprus and not taken to St. Helena?".

"Ethnos" (29.7.49).

An Ed. asks for an official answer to the natural question of why the British Government has chosen Cyprus for the Maltese refugees and not their own country, Malta, where they would surely be much more content.

"Neos Demokratis" (30.7.49).

An Ed. emphasizes the alarm felt generally in Cyprus on account of information that the Maltese refugees will be employed on works in connection with the Island's general electrification scheme. It says: "We think that an official statement on this particular point is essential".

"Neos Kypriakos Phylax" (30.7.49):

An Ed. repeats this paper's expression of resentment at the transfer of Maltese refugees to the "Hotel called Cyprus without the host's consent".

"Eleftheria" (31.7.49).

Another Editorial censures the British Government's action of "transplanting" Maltese refugees to Cyprus. "These people will eventually become permanent residents of the Island in order to compete with us in the struggle for bread and to join the anti-Enosis campaign, to the ruling Power's glory", says the Editorial.

"Protevousa" (30.7.49).

Like all the other Greek papers this one, too, is scared by the rumour that Maltese refugees may be employed on works in connection with the Island's electrification scheme.

Note by Press Officer: Sunday morning's papers carry an official contradiction of this rumour.

"Anexartitos" (30.7.49):

Wonders why the Maltese refugees have not been taken to Malta.

"Ethnos" (31.7.49). An Editorial expresses this paper's bitter resentment at the transfer of Maltese refugees to Cyprus "instead of asylum being offered in the Island to 2,500 Greek children condemned to slow death in Poland". The article says: "We assure the Maltese refugees that as a civilised people we have nothing but sympathy for them, but we cannot conceal our abhorrence of our rulers' open and occult plans for the de-Hellenization of this most Hellenic Island".

"Anexartitos" (1.8.49). This paper continues to give vent to resentment against the establishment of Maltese refugees in Cyprus to compete with native breadwinners.

"Proodos" (22.8.49). Another Editorial criticizes the transfer of Maltese refugees to Cyprus. It says that these people should be sent back to Turkey, their country of origin, and that if Turkey is so ungrateful as to refuse them, they should be taken to Malta.

95.

30

With the Compliments of the

Under Secretary of State

Home Office,
Whitehall. 20.10.49.

R.62-48

Saving. 90853/49.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of CYPRUS.

Date 6th September, 1949.

No. 766 Saving. CONFIDENTIAL

Your Ref. S.52/46.

Your confidential savingram No. 667 of the 7th July, 1949.

Maltese.

If the question of alleged discrimination in favour of Maltese as against Cypriots is raised I think that the best answer is that evacuation was on a voluntary basis for all British subjects. It may well be that in fact a larger number of Maltese than Cypriots wished to avail themselves of the opportunity of evacuation more particularly in the case of countries such as Greece (and indeed Turkey) where it would have been harder for them to adapt themselves to wartime conditions on the same basis as natives of the country concerned. It can, however, be categorically denied that there was any intentional discrimination either between Cypriots and Maltese or between Cypriots, Maltese and other British subjects.

Secer.

*Mrs Fisher
g it
31
94*

93.
32

RECEIVED
2-SEP 1949
COLONIAL OFFICE

FOREIGN OFFICE

S.W.1

(K 7625/107/250)

31st August, 1949.

Dear Miss Fisher,

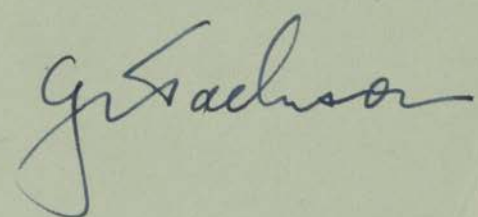
91

Please refer to your letter of the 9th August (reference 89024/3/49) to Ritchie about discrimination against Cypriots in the war-time evacuation scheme from South East Europe.

There was, of course, no discrimination in favour of Maltese as against Cypriots. The principle on which the scheme was based was that all British subjects wishing it should be evacuated. The fact that evacuation was voluntary would thus seem to dispose of any question of discrimination.

It may be of some assistance to you if we mention that we have on our files a letter from Mr. Acheson to Mr. Allchin bearing Colonial Office reference 13139/10/41 of the 19th April, 1941, which deals with the evacuation of Colonial British subjects.

Yours sincerely,



(G.H.S. Jackson)

H 531

Mr Lloyd

Miss

H. S. 34

33

MALTESE

LARNACA CYPRUS JULY 29 REUTER - A PARTY OF 407 REFUGEES OF MALTESE DESCENT, WHO WERE EVACUATED TO ERITREA FROM GREECE AND TURKEY DURING THE 1941 GERMAN ADVANCE, ARRIVED HERE TODAY.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT LAST MAY ACCEPTED THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR TRANSFER AND MAINTENANCE IN CYPRUS, WHERE IT WAS FELT THEY WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF RESUMING NORMAL LIFE.

THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT AGREED TO GIVE THEM PERMANENT SANCTUARY. THE REFUGEES, MOSTLY OLD AND INFIRM, WERE TODAY TAKEN TO THE FORMER JEWISH DETENTION CAMP AT XYLOTYMBOU.

REUTER

1731

sent

91-34

89024/3/49

The Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

9th August, 1949.

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Maltese ex Eritrea

The Cyprus authorities have made a most totisome enquiry about the past history of their Maltese arrivals. They say that the question may be raised locally whether at the time of the evacuation from South East Europe there was no discrimination in favour of Maltese as against Cypriots. The issue is not regarded as of outstanding importance; the Cyprus authorities are anxious to be in a position to make what they describe as "a reasoned statement on the subject" if challenged.

We again discover that we have no information here on this point. Is there any in the Foreign Office? If not can you make any suggestion as to what the Governor should say if the subject is brought up?

Yours sincerely,

MF

(MARY FISHER)

K.G. RITCHIE, ESQ.,
CONSULAR DEPARTMENT,
COLONIAL OFFICE.

Fonye

Ascd by (93)

Send in claim 27/7/49 35
1530 hrs

Registration copy at once

DRAFT
REPETITION
TELEGRAM

Enclaire.

Cypher (C)

Gouverneur Nicosia

No.

485

Following from Amara to Foreign Office Dept No
289 of 26th July. Addressed Governor Cyprus
No 8 repeated for information to Foreign Office,
Cairo (Embassy), and AHEO.

Begins.

(here take in portion in
square brackets of text
attached). Ends.

Further Action

1. Complete and return F.O. slip.

2. C.D. Tels. 449.

Please send copies to:-

Secretary of State

Mr. Webber

Sir T. Lloyd

Mr. Rees-Williams

Sir C. Jeffries

Sir H. Poynton

Mr. Gorell Barnes

Mr. Eastwood

Mr. Rogers

Mr. Galsworthy

Mr. Bennett

Brig. Johnson

Colonial Attache

Mr. Bigg

Accounts Branch

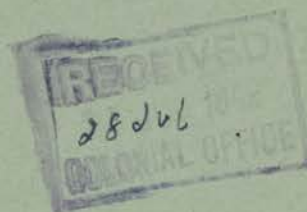
Mrs. Holding

Room 445

Room 440

N/C.

Registry



313.

EN CLAIR.FROM ASMARA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

NO. 289 Depth.

D. 7.17 a.m. 26th July, 1949.

26th July, 1949.

R. 10.31 a.m. 26th July, 1949.

A
 Addressed to Governor Cyprus telegram No. 8
 repeated for information to Foreign Office, Cairo
 (Embassy) and B.M.E.O.

L M.V. Surriento carrying 408 Maltese evacuees sailed
 Massawa 25 July expected arrive Larnaka 31 July, but
 possible she will arrive day earlier. Special rates
 have been obtained as result our giving undertaking that
 disembarkation will be completed within twelve hours of
 arrival therefore grateful you ensure no delay. Under
 existing conditions it was not possible carry out 100
 percent examination for undeclared currency immediately
 prior to embarkation but consider unlikely any large
 sums involved. 73

F.O. pass Cyprus as my telegram 8.

/ Copy sent to Colonial Office for transmission
 to Cyprus]

Action: C.A. Dept.

Distribution: F.O.A.A.T.
 C.A. Dept. (4 copies)

FOREIGN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION
OF AFRICAN TERRITORIES

89024/3/49.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL

*C. E. S. Lloyd Esq.,
Colonial Office.*

*Devonshire House,
Mayfair Place,
W. 1.*

26th July 1949.

EN CLAIR

FROM ASMARA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 277 Depth.

D.9.34 a.m. 21st July, 1949.

21st July, 1949.

R.11.30 a.m. 21st July, 1949.

Addressed to Governor Cyprus, repeated for information to F.O. and Cairo.

Begins. Confirm 408 Maltese evacuees embark M.V. Surriento at Massawa 24th July. Due arrive Larnaka 1st August. Party includes following persons being repatriated Greece and Turkey via Cyprus. Saverio Borg and family. Marg Buttigeig, Josephine Harrison, Constantine Infanti and Catherine Mizzi for Turkey. Spiridon Redith and family and Pareskevula Busuttil for Greece.

Evangelos Busuttil and wife do not now wish to go to Greece and have refused sign undertaking to repay, so will be included in main party for Cyprus. Onrouting of Greek and Turkish parties being arranged this end, and expected take place within week of arrival Cyprus, but grateful you inform Consul-General, Cairo, date of departure Cyprus and arrival destination as soon as known in order arrangements may be made for their reception.

F.O. please pass to Cyprus as my telegram No. 7.

(Copy sent to Telegram Section, Colonial Office, for transmission to Cyprus)

Action: C.A. Dept.

Distribution: F.O.A.A.T. (Internal)
C.A. Dept. (4 copies)

EN CLAIR

Colonial Office ⁸⁸
(MR. D.E. S. LLOYD) 39

FROM ASMARA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

89024/3/49

No. 261 Depth. D.7.19 a.m. 15th July, 1949.
14th July, 1949. R.10.02 a.m. 15th July, 1949.

Following for Governor, Cyprus.

Maltese evacuees advance party Frank Buttigieg
and John Galleya due arrive Nicosia 27th July from
Cairo by B.O.A.C.

F.O. pse pass to Cyprus as my telegram No. 7.

(Copy sent to Telegram Section, Colonial Office,
for transmission to Cyprus).

Action: C.A. Dept.

Distribution: C.C.A.

C.A. Dept. (Mr. Doene)
Consular Dept. (F.O.) (Mr. S.F. Croft)
Colonial Office (Mr. D.E.S. Lloyd)

87

Cyprus Ref: No. S.52/46.

The Acting Governor of Cyprus presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, with *F.O* reference to the latter's telegram No.437 of 5th July, 1949, has the honour to forward, for information, a copy of telegram No.202 dated 7th July, 1949, on the subject of the Maltese evacuees, addressed to the Chief Administrator, Asmara.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
TROODOS, CYPRUS,
9th July, 1949.



1.8.

6
TELEGRAM.

From GOVERNOR,
CYPRUS

To Chief Administrator
Asmara.

Extra
41

Dated 7. 7. 49

Sent at 1320 in G.T.C. by JFH

No. 202.

Your telegram No. 225 to Foreign Office. MALTESE.

First week in August confirmed as suitable.

Disembarkation to be at Larnaca. Presence in advance of one or two capable persons (preferably representative of Camp Committee) most advisable. Unless letter mentioned in your paragraph 4 likely to arrive very early please telegraph revised number. Also grateful to learn whether evacuees have their own crockery and cutlery.

Governor.

2 extra copies.

Cyprus Ref: No. S.52/46.

C.O. Ref: No.89024/3/49.

From the Acting Governor of Cyprus.
To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

TELEGRAM No. 667. SAVING. CONFIDENTIAL.
DATED 7th July, 1949.

Your Confidential Savingsgram No.459 of 31st May.

Maltese.

I am grateful for the information given in the first two paragraphs of your savingram under reply regarding immigration into Malta.

2. With regard to the question of possible discrimination in favour of the Maltese at the time of their evacuation from South East Europe, I do not regard this issue as one of outstanding importance; nevertheless if the charge were made, I am anxious to be in a position to make a reasoned statement on the subject, and I should be most grateful for any information you can give me on this point.

3. The announcement that permanent asylum in Cyprus would be given to these people evoked a number of unfavourable articles in the press. However it was made just before the recent Municipal elections and as a result the criticism was neither as vociferous nor so voluminous as might have been expected at any other time. Nevertheless, I expect the subject will attract a good deal of attention when the Maltese actually arrive in the Island.



Acting Governor.

1-2-2.

85
Extract from Cyprus Political Situation Report.
(May, 1949).

43

(Orig. on 90215/49).

15. The announcement that permanent asylum would be given in Cyprus to some 400 refugees of Maltese origin from Greece and Turkey evoked a number of unfavourable articles in the Press, but the criticism was neither vociferous nor so voluminous as might have been the case had not both parties been almost exclusively concerned with mutual vituperation over the municipal elections that little time was left for attacking Government.

89024/3/1949
Cooled & sent
1145 h.
23. 6. 49.
J.H.

84
44

Registration copy at once

No. 413 Restricted

DRAFT
REPETITION
TELEGRAM
Code.

Cypher (O.T.P.)

Following from Chief Administrator
Nicosia to Foreign Office No 85 of 17th
June for Governor Cyprus as No 30.

Governor Cyprus.

Begins.
(here take in portion in
square brackets of text
attached). Ends.

Further action.

1. Complete and return F.O. slip.
2. C.D. Tels. 449
Please send copies to:-

Secretary of State
Mr. Webber
Sir T. Lloyd
Mr. Rens-Williams
Sir C. Jeffries
Mr. Poynton
Mr. Gorell Barnes
Mr. Eastwood
Mr. Rogers
Mr. Galsworthy
Mr. Bennett
Brig. Johnson
Colonial Attache
Mr. Bigg
Accounts Branch
Mr. Holding
Rm. 445
Rm. 440

NOT COPIED

Code

REPETITIONSFROM ASMARA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Chief Administrator.

No. 85

D. 7.6 a.m. 20th June, 1949

17th June, 1949

R. 9.3 a.m. 20th June, 1949

Following for the Governor of Cyprus.

[Your telegram 188 June 16th: Maltese
refugees.

Unable to give you firm date of arrival of
refugees in Cyprus as negotiations for ship still
subject to confirmation. But we are expecting
to move them during the first half of August.

Will give you firm date as soon as
arrangements for shipping completed.]

Foreign Office pass Nicosia as my telegram
No. 30.

[Copy sent to Telegraph Section Colonial
Office for retransmission to ~~Moscow~~]

Nicosia

TTTT

For 89024/3/49. ⁸³

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

46

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

*Draft in
424 c aks*

Code

TO CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

Sent 10th June 1949. 15.15 hrs.

No. 585.

My telegram No. 248.

Maltese.

Refund to Cyprus Government in accordance with paragraph 2 (d) and (e) of above telegram will be made from a Colonial Office vote and in order that provision of necessary money can be arranged I shall be grateful if you will inform me whether for 1949 it will be convenient if refund is made on receipt in Colonial Office of an annual audited statement after close of year or whether it will be necessary for Colonial Office to make advances on account of amount due to be refunded. I should much prefer the former and hope that you will be able to agree to this course but if local cash position makes the latter essential please inform me of amount which it is estimated will be required by 31st March next.

Expenditure to be met by the Colonial Office is limited to that incurred by your Government in respect of services in Cyprus. All other expenditure including passages to Cyprus will be met by Foreign Office.

I should be grateful for very early reply, if possible by 16th June.

Detailed accounting instructions will follow later.

Draft

TELEGRAM/ *

* SAVINGRAM

* The word Priority may be entered here, if necessary.

File No.

89024/13/49

To:—

OAG. CYPRUS

Sent.

Plain

47

Repeated to:—

19.15 hours.

21.6 1949

Priority:—

Nil.

Reply urgently required.

Important.

Immediate.

Most Immediate.

For transmission:—

☒ In Clear

Code

Cypher

No.

366

Restricted.

Confidential.

Secret.

Top Secret
and Personal.

U.S. of S.

U.S. of S.

(75)

My Tel. No 343

WALKER.

Man Person named is now
on way back to Cyprus
expecting to arrive about
13th Jun. Address 22.
SALIMAS ROAD FAMAGUSTA.

RECEIVED

-2JUN1949

In Tel. C.D.

ion:—

NOT COPIED

tion:—

Mr. O.E.S. Lloyd (Colonial Office)
OUTWARD TELEGRAM

89024/3 48

CA 313.

(This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.)

CYPHER/OTP.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO C.A. ASMARA.

No. 98 Depth.

D. 2.35 p.m. 16th May, 1949.

14th May, 1949.

SECRET.

80 My telegram No. 97. Following is text of statement :
The Cyprus Government at the request of His Majesty's Government has agreed to accept all those British evacuees who are of Maltese extraction. They will be admitted to the Island as permanent residents and will be encouraged to obtain employment. Whilst any person is finding employment, learning a trade, or where he or she is not capable of earning a living relief allowance will continue to be paid.

Initially the whole party will be accommodated in a reception camp. The date of departure from Eritrea will largely depend on the time it takes to get this camp ready.

Persons who have applied to go to other countries will be able to do so from Cyprus on the same terms as at present, viz they will be required to produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there and that they have accommodation, and in the case of Greece, Turkey and Egypt, to recognise that they will forfeit any right to receive relief in future as a distressed British subject. In such cases passage money will be provided as hitherto.

Originator : C.A. Dept.

Distribution: F.O.A.A.T.

Mr. O.E.S. Lloyd (Colonial Office)

Mr. K. Ritchie (Consular Dept. Foreign Office.)

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

Mr O.E.S. Lloyd
Colonial Office

49

C.A. 313.

CYPHER/OTP.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ASMARA.

No. 97 Depth.

D. 2.40 p.m. 16th May, 1949.

14th May, 1949.

CONFIDENTIAL.

My telegram No. 6 [of 6 April: transfer of
Maltese evacuees to Cyprus.] My telegram No. 98
contains text of a statement which you should issue
at a time to be concerted between you and Cyprus
Government either as soon as possible after or
simultaneously with Cyprus Government's own
announcement.

2. This statement will not repeat not apply
to families referred to in your tels. Nos. 62 and
61. Disposal of outstanding cases of this category
still under consideration.

Originator: C.A. Dept.

Distribution: F.O.A.A.T.

Mr. O.E.S. Lloyd. (Colonial Office.)

Mr. K. Ritchie. (Consular Dept.
Foreign Office.)

CA 313

FOREIGN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION
OF AFRICAN TERRITORIES

79

50

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL

O.E.S. Lloyd, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

*Devonshire House,
Mayfair Place,
W. 1.*

16.5.49

M144 36667—5

COPY

51

British Administration,
ASMARA.

No. S/MA/36/117.

9th May, 1949.

Dear Department,

MALTESE EVACUEES

I am directed to refer to my letter of even reference dated 5th April, 1949, and to say that it is regretted that owing to an oversight the Nominal Roll attached thereto was incomplete.

The attached amendment should be inserted between Family No. 90 evacuee No. 266 ELLUL Genovieve and Family No. 102 evacuee No. 287 GALTIES John.

Yours ever,

(Sgd.)

SECRETARIAT

F.O.A.A.T.,
Devonshire House,
LONDON, W.1.

N° Pas.	SURNAMES	CHRISTIAN NAME	AGE	PLACE & DATE OF BIRTH	TOWN & COUNTRY WHENCE EVACUATED	TYPE & NUMBER OF PASSPORT	PLACE & DATE OF ISSUE	PROFESSION OR TRADE	PREVIOUS EMPLOY- MENT & DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT	EDUCATION	LANGUAGES SPOKEN	WRITTEN	REMARKS
90 267	ELLUL	RAOU DANIEL	18	SALONICA 19.1.31	SALONICA GREECE	B.I.P.N°22331	MADRAS 20.10. 47	N I L		HIGH SCHOOL COIMBATORE EVACUEE CAMP HIGH SCHOOL COIMBATORE EMERGENCY CAMP SCHOOL	ENGLISH GREEK ENGLISH GREEK	ENGLISH	
268	ELLUL	GEORGE EMIL	16	SALONICA 8.7.33	SALONICA	MOTHER'S PASS N° 22329		STUDENT				ENGLISH	
269	ELLUL	RICHARD	6	COIMBATORE 18.11.43							ENGLISH GREEK		
94 274	FALCON	HONORE	55	ISTAMBUL 1.11.94	ISTAMBUL TURKEY	B.I.P.N°21184	MADRAS 27.6.47		20 YEARS	ILLITERATE	TURKISH GREEK	NONE	
95 275	FENNECK	CARLO	69	ISTAMBUL 15.3.1880	ISTAMBUL TURKEY	B.I.P.N°20643	MADRAS 2.4.1947	PLUMBER	30 YEARS	ILLITERATE	FRENCH ITALIAN GREEK	NONE	
276	FENNECK	MARY (MAGIUN)	62	ISTAMBUL 1.12.1887	ISTAMBUL TURKEY	HUSBAND'S PASS N° 20643		HOUSE WIFE		ILLITERATE	MALTESE GREEK	NONE	
96 277	FENNECK	CARMENO	84	SMYRNA 27.12.1865	SMYRNA TURKEY	B.I.P.N°22861	MADRAS 28.11.1947	WORKMAN IN THE OTTOMAN RAIL. SMYRNA	30 YEARS	ILLITERATE	TURKISH GREEK MALTESE	NONE	
278	FENNECK	PARASKIVULA (Camburepoles)	74	SMYRNA 1877	SMYRNA TURKEY	HUSBAND'S PASS N° 22861		HOUSE WIFE		ILLITERATE	GREEK	NONE	
97 279	PINLAYSON	OTILIE LILI	69	VIENNA AUSTRIA 19.7.1880	DUBROVNIK YUGOSLAVIA	B.I.P.N°20798	MADRAS 26.4.1947	TYPING TRANSLATING LIBRARY WORK	TEMPORARY SECRETARY FOR 6 MONTHS HALLET WAR SCHOOL MAINI TAL INDIA	ELEMENTARY SC. SECONDARY SCHOOL GIMNASIUM UNIVERSITY	ENGLISH GERMAN	ENGLISH GERMAN	
98 280	FLERI	JOHN	66	ISTAMBUL 1.5.1883	ISTAMBUL TURKEY	B.I.P.N°22833	MADRAS 20.12.1947	FIREMAN ON MERCHANT NAVY	20 YEARS	ILLITERATE	GREEK ITALIAN FRENCH TURKISH	NONE	
99 281	GALEA	HENRY	63	ISTAMBUL 12.12.1886	ISTAMBUL TURKEY	B.I.P.N°22690	MADRAS 28.11.1947	LABOURER	35 YEARS	ILLITERATE	MALTESE GREEK TURKISH	NONE	
282	GALEA	TARSI (Christideu)	59	ISTAMBUL 1893	ISTAMBUL TURKEY	HUSBAND'S PASS N° 22690		HOUSE WIFE		ILLITERATE	ITALIAN GREEK TURKISH	NONE	
100 283	GALLIA	VICTORIA	63	ISTAMBUL 11.7.1886	ISTAMBUL TURKEY	B.I.P.N°22833		DRESSMAKER	30 YEARS	FRENCH HIGH SCHOOL	FRENCH ENGLISH GREEK TURKISH	FRENCH	
101 284	GALLNYA	CATERINA	65	1884		B.I.P.N°22915	MADRAS 23.12.47						
102 285	GLDIES	FRANCESCA (Assopardi)	46	SMYRNA 15.8.1903	SMYRNA TURKEY	B.I.P.N°22933	MADRAS 23.12.1947	HOUSE WIFE		ELEMENTARY FRENCH SC.	ITALIAN FRENCH GREEK	FRENCH	
286	GALDIES	EDWARD ROCCO	21	SMYRNA 29.7.1928	SMYRNA TURKEY	B.I.P.N°22934	MADRAS 23.12.1947	NONE		ELEMENTARY FRENCH SCHOOL	ENGLISH FRENCH GREEK	ENGLISH FRENCH	

ing on 165861-1
INWARD TELEGRAM.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

53

Cypher (O.T.P.)

29024/3.

FROM COMMISSIONER FOR JEWISH CAMPS, CYPRUS.

D. 12th May, 1949.

R. 12th " " 12.25 hrs.

No.33 Secret.

~~66~~ Your telegram No.21.

Disposal of Camps.

Am advising you fully by airmail on
points and policy involved.

H 531

~~Mr Lloyd~~

~~Miss Fisher~~

H.539.54

MALTESE

NICOSIA CYPRUS MAY 17 REUTER - FOUR HUNDRED BRITISH SUBJECTS - THE LAST PARTY OF MALTESE DESCENDANTS WHO WERE EVACUATED FROM GREECE AND TURKEY DURING THE 1941 GERMAN ADVANCE - WILL BE GIVEN SANCTUARY IN CYPRUS, ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT HERE TODAY.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED FULL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TRANSFER AND MAINTENANCE OF THE WHOLE PARTY WHICH IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE HERE WITHIN A FEW MONTHS.

SINCE THEIR EVACUATION THESE FORMER MALTESE HAVE BEEN ACCOMMODATED IN VARIOUS REFUGEE CAMPS AND, IN MANY CASES, THEIR RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE HAS BEEN ARRANGED. THESE LAST 400 PEOPLE, MAINLY AGED AND INFIRM, ARE NOW IN A CAMP IN ERITREA.

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THEIR LANGUAGE AND BACKGROUND WOULD GIVE THEM A READIER CHANCE OF RETURNING TO A NORMAL LIFE IN CYPRUS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT THEM.

IT WILL ACCOMMODATE THEM AT FIRST IN A RECEPTION CENTRE FORMERLY USED BY TROOPS ADMINISTERING THE XYLOTIMBOU JEWISH DETENTION CAMPS.
REUTER 1001

89024/3/49

Saving.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies. CYPRUS.

To the Officer Administering the Government of.....

Date.....

31 May, 1949.

No.....

459

Saving.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your confidential savinggram No. 454 of 3rd May.

Maltese.

1. Your paragraph 6. Entry into Malta is controlled by the Immigration Ordinance (No. 1 of 1948) and the Aliens Ordinance. (Copies attached for ease of reference). Please see in particular Sections 5, 3 (a) and 38 (1) of the former.
2. Immigration is a reserved matter under the Malta (Constitution) Letters Patent 1947, i.e: it falls to be dealt with by the Maltese Imperial Government. It might be thought that the Governor could use the overriding powers granted under Section 36 of the Immigration Ordinance to permit the entry of some of the party. This is not so however for at the time of the grant of restored internal self-government His Majesty's Government gave an undertaking "that they will not use their control of immigration to facilitate the entry into Malta of displaced persons or refugees without the consent of the Maltese Government." This undertaking was given to allay fears expressed by the Maltese that Malta might be used as a dumping ground if control was to be retained by the Imperial authorities and it was, in effect, a condition of their agreement to immigration being a reserved subject.

3.

Saving.

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the Officer Administering the Government of.....

Date.....

No. Saving.

3. Your paragraph 2. I regret I am unable at the moment to find any evidence on the question of alleged discrimination in favour of the Maltese at the time of their evacuation from South East Europe. How much importance do you attach to this?

4. Has there been any local reaction to your announcement?

SEGER.

1. Your para 6. Entry into Malta is controlled by the Immigration Ordinance (No 1 of 1948) and the Migrants Ordinance. (Copies attached for ease of reference. Please see in particular Sections 5, 3(a), and 38(1) of the former.

(Copies
behind
draft)

2.

C. O.

Mr......

Mr......

Mr......

Mr......

Mr......

.....
.....
Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. S.

Minister of State

Secretary of State

Your Reference.....

DRAFT.

Draft

TELEGRAM / * **SAVINGRAM**

* The word Priority may be entered here, if necessary.

File No. **57**
89024/3/49

To:— **Acting Governor Ceylon**

Sent. **76**

Mr. **Lloyd 25/5**
 Mr. **Fisher 25.5**

as amended.
 Repeated to:—

C. D.
 R. 25 MAY
 D. 30

hours
31 MAY 1949
 194

Mr.
 Mr.
 Sir

Permt. U.S. of S.
 Parly. U.S. of S.
 S. of S.

Priority:—
 Nil.
 Reply urgently required.
 Important.
 Immediate.
 Most Immediate.

To be transmitted:—
 In Clear
 Code
 Cypher

No. **459**
 Restricted.—
 X Confidential.
 Secret.
 Top Secret
 and Personal.

and 59

*Admission Ord.
 Immigration Ord.
 copy beneath draft.*

(59) Your confidential telegram No 454 of 3rd May, Maltese.

Para 6 Entry into Malta is controlled by the Immigration Ordinance ^{No} ~~Ordinance~~ 1 of 1948 and the Alien's Ordinance. ~~Not a law.~~
 (Copies attached for ease of reference) it will be seen from Section 3(a) of the former, that together with Section 3, the party in Enrica would be classed as a prohibited immigrant. Further, not one would be able to meet the conditions imposed by Section 38(i).

2. Immigration is a reserved matter under the Malta (Constitution) Letters Patent 1947, i.e. it falls to be dealt with by the Maltese Imperial Government, and it might be ^{thought} ~~argued~~ that that the Governor could use the overriding powers granted under Section 36 of the Immigration Ordinance to grant the ~~Governor~~ ^{Governor} overriding powers which in this case would enable him to permit the entry of ~~all~~ ^{however} some of the party. This is not so far as the ^{internal} ~~same~~ of the grant of reserved self-government H.M.S. gave an undertaking that the

Distribution:—

Further action:—

not use their control of immigration to facilitate
the entry into Malta of displaced persons or
refugees without the consent of the Maltese Government."

(white paper)

expressed by the Maltese)

This undertaking was given to allay fears that
that Malta might be used as a dumping ground if control was to be
using distressed non-Malta born Maltese subjects

from the Eastern Mediterranean would be dumped in
Malta. and the present party was much in mind
when the undertaking was given. While my

information on the precise status of those persons

whom it is considered may be repatriable is

probably incomplete I feel certain that none

could meet the conditions imposed by the

Immigration Ordinance.

your

3. Para 2. I regret I am unable to find
at the moment to find any evidence on the question of alleged
any reference to discrimination in favour of

the Maltese was shown as the form of

their evacuation from both East Europe.

How much importance do you attach
to this?

4. Has there been any local
reaction to your announcement?

SECRET

retained by the
Imperial authorities
and was, in effect,
a condition of their
acceptance agreement
to immigration
being a reserved subject.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

75
59
El

89024/3/49

Code

TO CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

Sent 22nd May, 1949. 08.00 hrs.

No. 345 Confidential

Your secret telegram No. 285.

Walker.

Answer to both questions is yes. Present
addressed 11 Wold Street, Norton, Malton, Yorks.
(or care Palestine Police Office.)

Draft

TELEGRAM/ *

* SAVINGGRAM

* The word Priority may be entered here, if necessary.

File No.

75 60

89024/3/49

Sent.

08-00 hours.

22/5/1949

C.O.

To: O A G C Y P I R U S

Repeated to:—

Mr. Fisher 21 v charge

Mr. _____

Mr. _____

Sir _____

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

S. of S.

Priority:—

Nil.

Reply urgently required.

Important.

Immediate.

Most Immediate.

For transmission:—

In Clear

☒ Code

Cypher

No. 343

~~Restricted~~

☒ Confidential.

~~Secret~~

~~Top Secret and Personal.~~



Distribution:—

Copy, with copy of (72)
on 72817/CR

Further action:—

Recive v. ~~Attache~~
Mr. Nicklin

Your secret ref. No 285.

WALKER

Answer to both (a) and
questions is yes. Present
address 11 WOLD STREET,
NORTON, MALTON, YORKS.
(or care Palestine Police
Office)

89074/3/49

Reyphind
sent
2015 hrs
17/5

74
61

Register Copy at once

No. 329 Recd

DRAFT
REPETITION
TELEGRAM

Following from Armenia to
F.O. no-70 17 May repeated to
Cyprus as no. 2.

Cypher (O.T.P.)

Immediate

Gourner *heoria*

Begins.
(here take in portion in
square brackets of text
attached). Ends.

Further action.

1. Complete and return F.O. slip.
2. C.D. Tels. 449.
Please send copies to:-

Secretary of State.
Mr. Webber.
Sir T. Lloyd.
Mr. Reed-Williams.
Sir C. Jeffries.
Mr. Poynton.
Mr. Gorell Barnes.
Mr. Eastwood.
Mr. Rogers.
Mr. Galasworthy.
Mr. Bennett.
Brig. Johnson.
Colonial Attache.
Mr. Bigg.
Accounts Branch.
Mr. Holding.
Rm. 445.
Rm. 440.

NOT COPIED

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM ASMARA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Drew

No. 70

17th May, 1949

D. 12.15 p.m. 17th May, 1949

R. 1.49 p.m. 17th May, 1949

Repeated to Cyprus.

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 70 of 17th May, repeated for information to Cyprus.

Your telegrams Nos 131 and 132: Maltese.

Agree to E.T.A. being July 31st.

2. Announcement being made here to inmates of camp tomorrow, Wednesday morning. Amendment to final paragraph of draft is satisfactory. We do not require copy by air of statement issued in Cyprus.

3. We will now proceed to arrange for shipping with a view to getting Maltese to Cyprus as soon as possible after July 31st.

Foreign Office please pass Cyprus as my telegram number 2 Immediate.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Cyprus].

k k k

Draft

TELEGRAM/ *

~~SAVINGRAM~~

* The word Priority may be entered here, if necessary.

File No.

89024/3/49

Sent.

63

1845 hours

16/5/1949

No.

321

Restricted.
Confidential.
* Secret.
Top Secret
and Personal.

To:—

O. A. S.
Cyprus.

Repeated to:—

Priority:—

Nil.
Reply urgently required.
Important.
* Immediate.
Most Immediate.

To be transmitted:—

In Clear
Code
* Cypher
OTP

Mr. Lloyd 16/5/49

Mr. _____

Mr. _____

Mr. _____

Sir _____

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

S. of S.

RECEIVED

17 MAY 1949

10. TEL. C.D.

You Tel No. 290. (71)

Mallere.

Amendment was telegraphed to Chief

Administrator in F.O. Telegrams Nos

97 Depth and 98 Depth of the 14th May

Distribution:—

NOT COPIED

Further action:—

Rec'd to HS31
for filing.

INWARD TELEGRAM.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

72

COPY FOR REGISTRATION

64

AMENDED COPY (Correction underlined)
Cypher(O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

D. 14th May, 1949

R. 14th " " 12.15 hrs.



No. 285 Secret

59

My confidential priority savingram No. 454.

Maltese.

In connection with preparations of camp site referred to in paragraph 7 of my savingram under reference, I am anxious to appoint suitable Commandant without delay. I consider Gilbert Rudolf Walker, formerly Palestine Police, who was in charge of Templar German refugees in Cyprus would be suitable. Person named recently proceeded U.K. leaving no address here. Grateful if he could be contacted by you through the Crown Agents or Palestine Police Office and it could be ascertained (a) if he proposes to return to Cyprus (b) whether he would be interested in appointment suggested. I should be glad to have telegraphic reply on this subject together with present address of person named.

(Correction received 15th May)

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher(O.T.P.)

Amended

~~COPY FOR REGISTRATION~~

FROM CYPRUS(O.A.G.)

D. 14th May, 1949

R. 14th " " 12.15 hrs.

No. 285 Secret

89024/3/49

(59)

My confidential priority savingram No. 454.

Maltese. *in cypher.*

In connection with preparations of camp site referred to in paragraph 7 of my savingram under reference, I am anxious to appoint suitable Commandant without delay. I consider Gilbert Rudolf Walker, formerly Palestine Police, who was in charge of Templar German refugees in Cyprus would be suitable. Person named recently proceeded U.K. leaving no address here. Grateful if he could be contacted by you through the Crown Agents or Palestine Police Office and it could be ascertained (a) if he ~~prefers~~ *proposes* to return to Cyprus (b) whether he would be interested in appointment suggested. I should be glad to have telegraphic reply on this subject together with present address of person named.

INWARD TELEGRAM

71

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

66

Cypher (O.T.P.) **COPY FOR REGISTRATION**

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

D. 16th May 1949.

R. 16th " " "

11.35 hrs



IMMEDIATE

No. 290 Secret.

Your telegram No. 315.

Maltese.

89024/3/49

(62)

7a)

Please see my immediately preceding telegram to Chief Administrator Eritrea routed through you. If amendment of Eritrean Announcement given in paragraph 3 of your telegram under reply has not been repeated to Eritrea, grateful if it may now be repeated.

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

70

67

pher (O.T.P.)

COPY FOR REGISTRATION

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

D. 16th May 1949.

R. 16th " " 11.35 hrs.



IMMEDIATE

No. 289 Secret.

Following for Chief Administrator Eritrea and
for your information. Begins:-

IMMEDIATE

No. 155

Maltese.

(68) My telegram No. 154.

Handwritten: C.195 90814/4/49

Now learn that your announcement and my statement
should be made simultaneously or as near together as
possible. Undesirable possibility of press here
publishing embarrassing report before official statement
makes it essential I should release news on afternoon of
tomorrow, Tuesday. Trust this will be convenient.

2. Presume amendment to final paragraph of Dutton's
draft announcement for inmates of camp has been passed to
you.

3. Grateful learn whether you require copy by air of
statement issued here.

4. Preparations for reception camp will now begin.
Ends.

(Copies sent to War Office for transmission
to Eritrea)

68

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

6024/3.
COPY FOR REGISTRATION

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

D. 13th May 1949.

R. 13th " " 18.00 hrs.



PRIORITY

No. 283 Secret.

Following for Chief Administrator Eritrea, No. 154
and for your information. Begins.

Maltese.

Tentative date 1st July for arrival of party
Cyprus unlikely to give adequate time for preparation
of camp which involves erection of many additional huts.
Exact estimate of time required difficult to make before
project is made public and official announcement not yet
cleared with H.M.G. but grateful to learn whether you
would agree to E.T.A. being 31st July.

INWARD TELEGRAM.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

67
69

Cypher (O.T.P.)

COPY FOR REGISTRATION

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

D. 13th May, 1949.

R. 13th " " "



IMMEDIATE

No. 282 Secret

My priority savingram No. 454.

Maltese.

Possibility of press securing information about transfer before official announcement is causing me concern. It would be very embarrassing. Further, preparation of camp cannot begin in advance of publicity, and I have already had to suggest postponement of arrival date tentatively 19th June B.A.E. (see my immediately following telegram for Eritrea).

2. Grateful therefore for very early authority to issue statement.

(59)

89024 13/49

OUTWARD TELEGRAM
FROM S. OF S. COLONIES

89024/3/49

Cypher (O.T.P.)

Cons 69

TO COMMISSIONER FOR JEWISH CAMPS, CYPRUS

Sent 11th May 1949. 15.00 hrs.

No.21 Confidential.

Disposal of Camps.

No repeat no objection to making available British administration camp site plus necessary material to Cyprus Government for Maltese ex Eritrea. Any materials so supplied should be valued for reference when ultimate settlement takes place.

Copies sent to:-

Treasury
"
Foreign Office

- Lt.Col.Russell Edmunds.
- Mr.W.Field Robinson.
- Mr.K.G.Ritchie.

g

Draft

TELEGRAM/ *

* SAVINGRAM

* The word Priority may be entered here, if necessary.

File No. 7166

89024/3/49

No ppr

Sent. OTP

1500 hours.

11/5 194

To:—

COMMISSIONER FOR
JEWISH CAMPS.

CYPRUS.

arr'd. by 78

Repeated to:—

Priority:—

Nil.
Reply urgently required.
Important.
Immediate.
Most Immediate.

To be transmitted:—

—In Clear
—Code
☒ Cypher OTP

No. 21

Restricted.
☒ Confidential.
Secret.
Top Secret
and Personal.

C.O.

Mr. *Slater 711. v. Dana*

Mr. *Nicklin*

Mr. _____

Mr. _____

Sir _____

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

S. of S.

RECEIVED
17 MAY 1949
21 225

Comptroller General

Disposal of Camps

No repeat no objection to
making available British
administration camp site
plus necessary material to
Cyprus Government for Maltese
ex Eritrea. Any materials
so supplied should be
valued for reference when
ultimate settlement takes
place.

Distribution:—

Mr. Col. Russell Edmunds } Treasury.
W. Field Robinson }
K. G. Ritchie. F.O.
(and a copy to Mr Nicklin, S.
for his pp)

Further action:—

Draft back to 14531

CA 313.

FOREIGN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION
OF AFRICAN TERRITORIES

72

89024/3

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS
OF THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL

O. E. S. Lloyd, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

*Devonshire House,
Mayfair Place,
W. 1.*

65
73
EN CLAIR

FROM ASMARA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

NO 81 DEPTH

7TH MAY, 1949.

D. 12.41 7TH MAY, 1949

R. 8.19 7TH MAY, 1949

YOUR DEPTH 81 (sic) "MALTESE EVACUEES".

FOLLOWING FAMILY REPEAT FAMILY NUMBERS OF EVACUEES UNDER

HEADING "B" OF OUR NO 25. 1,10,30,71,72,73,74,112,113,114,116,
117,118,119,121,122,133,157,158,163,168,169,173,174,182,201,202,
203, 206 and 97 (NAME "FINALYSON") WHICH OWING TO AN OVERSIGHT IS
NOT ON YOUR NOMINAL ROLL. AMENDMENT IS BEING FORWARDED.

NUMBER 30 HAS SINCE BEEN CERTIFIED INSANE. NUMBER 158 IS LEAVING
FOR UK BY NEXT TROOPER AS AUTHORISED BY CONSUL GENERAL, CAIRO.

NUMBER 114 IS LEAVING SHORTLY FOR TURKEY AS AUTHORISED BY CONSUL
GENERAL, CAIRO. NUMBER 122 HAS PROPERTY IN GREECE AND IS HOPING
TO BE AUTHORISED TO RETURN THERE SHORTLY.

REVISED TO TAL 31 FAMILIES 61 PERSONS

NOTE NUMBER IS 168 IS REPEATED + ON W/T COPY

ACTION C.A. Department

DISTRIBUTION

D.G.
D.D.G.
Head of E and P. Department
" " F. and E. Department
" " T.S. and S. Department
" " C.A. Department
Legal Adviser.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

EN CLAIR

64
74

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ASMARA

NO. 71 DEPTH

89024/3
D. 9.00 a.m. 5TH MAY, 1949.

5TH MAY, 1949

YOUR TEL. NO.25 [DEPTH OF 13 APRIL, MALTESE EVACUEES] GRATEFUL
YOUR SIGNAL SERIAL NUMBERS ON NOMINAL ROLL FORWARDED YOUR
S/MAL/36/117 DATED 5TH APRIL OF 34 FAMILIES UNDER HEADING
(B)

ORIGINATOR C.A. DEPARTMENT

DISTRIBUTION

D.G.

D.D.G.

Head of E. and P. Department

" " F. and E. "

" " T.S. and S. "

" " C.A. "

Legal Adviser

African Department

Mr. J.S. Bennett Colonial Office

Mr. K. Ritchie, Consular Dept., Foreign Office.



From

Anthony S. Bonnici
Maltese Camp
Mai-Habar
(Eritrea)

63

75

Mai-Habar the 1st May, 1949

A. Creech Jones Esq.
Colonial Secretary
(House of Commons)
London.

89024/3.

Sir,

I have the honour to state that agreeable to a recent communication of the relevant authorities in Eritrea, to the inmates of this camp, through our transit camp Commandant, there is a likelihood to move, in the near future, for the return to normal life in the Crown Island CYPRUS about 540 British Subjects of Maltese descent evacuated from Turkey and the Balkans in 1941 for whom the Government have accepted responsibility. The object of my bold address is to thank you heartily for the judicious selection of the place which, in my humble opinion, geographically, economically and socially answers admirably the expectations of the body of men, women and children concerned. While I shall feel grateful to you for this further instance of the interest evinced by the Government in the welfare of the Evacuees involved,

Your most obedient servant.

Anthony S. Bonnici

Draft
TELEGRAM/ * * SAVINGRAM

* The word Priority may be entered here, if necessary.

File No. 62
89024/3/49 76

To:—

ACTING GOVERNOR,
CYPRUS. 12c

C. D.
R. 12 MAY
D.

Recyphered
Sent. *OTP*

0945 hours.

14-5-1949

Mr. Lloyd " /5

Repeated to:—

Mr. *Fisher 11. V. V. A.*

Mr. *(after dispatch of OT letter above)*

Mr. *tel. Sec. 13/5*

Sir *tel. Sec. 13/5*

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

S. of S.

Priority:—

Nil.

Reply urgently required.

* Important.

Immediate.

Most Immediate.

PRIORITY

To be transmitted:—

~~PLAIN~~

~~CODE~~

☒ Cypher *OTP*

No. 315

Restricted.

* Confidential.

Secret.

Top Secret
and Personal.

GOVERNOR NICOSIA

(59)

No. 454.

Maltess.

I approve text of proposed announcement

which formed second enclosure to saving under reference. You may issue it as early as you

think fit, and I do not think it need wait till after an announcement in the camps in Eritrea.

Grateful therefore if you would inform B.M.A. Asmara, when you propose to make announcement.

2. B.M.A., Asmara, will be asked to make announcement in accordance with date arranged in consultation with you.

3. Text of this announcement is as in Appendix III of Enclosure I to your saving under reference except that final paragraph should read:

"Persons who have applied to go to other countries will be able to do so from Cyprus on the same terms as at present, viz. they will be required to produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there and that they have accommodation; and in the case of Greece,

and agree that it should be issued as early as possible.

RECEIVED
14 MAY 1949
IN TEL. SEC.

If it is not possible to make statement simultaneously with Cyprus would issue as soon as possible afterwards. Grateful therefore if you would arrange date or dates of publication with B.M.A. Asmara.

Distribution:—

Copy to:—

1. Mr. K.G. Ritchie, F.O.
2. Mr. W. Field-Robinson, Treasury.

Further action:—

3. Miss J.R. Butler, F.O. A.A.T., Devonshire House, Mayfair Place, London, W.1.

Turkey and Egypt, to recognise that they will forfeit any right to receive relief in future as a distressed British subject.

In such cases passage money will be provided as hitherto."

3. Your paragraph 7. Please ~~see my telegram~~
No. *Authority has been conveyed to Collins as requested.*

4. I will ^{communicate} ~~telegraph~~ further on remaining points raised ~~at a later date~~. Meanwhile I would be grateful if you would convey ^{an expression of appreciation,} my thanks ^{to} Mr. Dutton for the expedition and discretion with which he has carried out his task.

It is requested that on arrival in Cyprus warning should be repeated that help in leaving for other countries will only (in part only) be forthcoming on conditions above.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

89024/3/49

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO CYPRUS (Acting Governor)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 14th May, 1949. 09.45 hrs.

Ans 71

PRIORITY

No.315 Confidential.

Your confidential priority saving No.454.

Maltese.

I approve text of proposed announcement which formed second enclosure to saving under reference, and agree that it should be issued as early as possible.

2. B.M.A., Asmara, will be asked to make announcement in accordance with date arranged in consultation with you. If it cannot be made simultaneously with Cyprus statement. I would hope that it would issue as soon as possible afterwards. Grateful therefore if you would arrange date or dates of publication in concert with B.M.A. Asmara, informing me.

3. Text of Eritrea announcement as in Appendix III of Enclosure I to your saving under reference except that final paragraph should read:

"Persons who have applied to go to other countries will be able to do so from Cyprus on the same terms as at present, viz. they will be required to produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there and that they have accommodation; and in the case of Greece, Turkey and Egypt, to recognise that they will forfeit any right to receive relief in future as a distressed British subject. In such cases passage money will be provided as hitherto."

It is requested that on arrival in Cyprus warning should be repeated that help in leaving for other countries will only (repeat only) be forthcoming on conditions above.

4. Your paragraph 7. Authority has been conveyed to Collins as requested.

5. I will communicate further on remaining points raised. Meanwhile grateful if you would convey an expression of appreciation, to Mr. Dutton for the expedition and discretion with which he has carried out his task.

Copies sent to:-
Foreign Office
Treasury

- Mr. K.G. Ritchie.
- Mr. W. Field-Robinson.

Miss Butler,
Foreign Office, (A.A.T.)
Devonshire House,
Mayfair Place,
W.1.

FOREIGN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION OF AFRICAN TERRITORIES

64
79

Telephone :
MAYfair 7611

Devonshire House,
Mayfair Place,
London, W. 1.

Our reference : 313.

Your reference :

12 May, 1949.

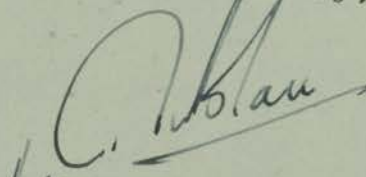
Dear Mr. Lloyd,

Thank you for your letter 89024/3/49 dated 5th May 1949, about the Maltese in Eritrea.

2. The telegram from Asmara appears to have been misinterpreted. On comparing it with F.O.A.A.T. 16. Depth I find the sixty persons referred to are "British Subjects of non-Maltese extraction." I am afraid I do not know their precise origin, but I have sent a telegram to Eritrea asking them to quote the family serial numbers on the Nominal Roll. This will give us all the information we require. I will send you a copy of Eritrea's reply as soon as it comes to hand.

3. For your information, Mr. R. Deane has now undertaken the duties connected with the Eritrea Section in F.O.A.A.T. and perhaps you will be good enough to address any future correspondence on this subject to him.

Yours sincerely,


for (Miss J.R. Butler).

O.E.S. Lloyd, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Great-Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

18
Sent J.R.C.
60.
THE CHURCH HOUSE,
GREAT SMITH STREET,
S. W. 1.

80

89024/3/49

12 May, 1949.

Dear Miss Butler,

I do not know if Ritchie has passed over to you yet the Acting Governor of Cyprus' priority savingram No.454, but it has been agreed with the Treasury and with Ritchie that Cyprus should make an announcement as in the second enclosure to the Acting Governor's savingram. A copy of this draft statement is enclosed for ease of reference. It has also been agreed that Eritrea should be asked to make a statement at a time to be concerted between Cyprus and Eritrea on the lines of Appendix III to the first enclosure to the savingram (also enclosed) except that the final paragraph should now read:

?
verbally
- see
minute
sheet

"Persons who have applied to go to other countries will be able to do so from Cyprus on the same terms as at present, viz. they will be required to produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there and that they have accommodation; and in the case of Greece, Turkey and Egypt, to recognise that they will forfeit any right to receive relief in future as a distressed British subject. In such cases passage money will be provided as hitherto."

We

MISS J.R. BUTLER,
F.O. A.A.T.,
DEVONSHIRE HOUSE, MAYFAIR PLACE, W.1.

08

We would be grateful, provided you have no objection, if you would inform B.M.A., Asmara, that they should make the announcement as amended above at a time to be agreed in concert with Cyprus, and preferably as soon as possible after (if not simultaneously with) Cyprus' own announcement.

Yours sincerely,

JSL

APPENDIX III to Report
on Maltese Evacuees.

STATEMENT to be made, when authorised, to inmates
of MAI HABAR CAMP.

The Cyprus Government at the request of His Majesty's Government has agreed to accept all those British evacuees who are of Maltese extraction. They will be admitted to the Island as permanent residents and will be encouraged to obtain employment whilst any person is finding employment, learning a trade, or where he or she is not capable of earning a living relief allowance will continue to be paid.

Initially the whole party will be accommodated in a reception camp. The date of departure from Eritrea will largely depend on the time it takes to get this camp ready.

Persons who have applied to go to other countries and are able to obtain permission to enter them will not be prevented from doing so if they produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there but emigration to such countries as Greece, Turkey and to Egypt will only be permitted after the emigrant has explicitly recognised that by going he will forfeit any right to receive relief in the future as a destitute British subject.

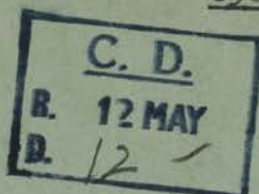
Draft communique

In 1941, when the enemy was advancing through the Balkans, and the invasion of European Turkey as well as Greece seemed imminent, efforts were made to evacuate British subjects from the threatened territory. Among those who were successfully withdrawn, there were some whose permanent accommodation has presented prolonged difficulty. They are of Mediterranean origin, the descendants of Maltese, who had long abandoned their mother tongue to speak instead Greek or Turkish, and who had become largely assimilated to the populations of the areas in which they lived.

In the succeeding years these unfortunate people have been accommodated in various refugee camps. In many cases it was possible to arrange for their resettlement elsewhere, but there still remain some 400 persons, now in a camp in Eritrea. Conditions in Greece, in particular, do not favour their return to that country, and in any case they have not the means to support themselves. Many of them, moreover, are aged and infirm. Their language and background make it probable that they would find a readier chance of returning to normal life in Cyprus than in any other territory available to them, and in these circumstances the Government of Cyprus has agreed to give them asylum in the Island. They will arrive a few months hence and will at first be accommodated in a reception centre in the quarters formerly used by troops administering the Jewish Camps.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have accepted full financial responsibility for the transfer and maintenance of the whole party. No charge will fall upon Cyprus funds.

89024/3/49



5/2

10 of encl.

84

C. O.

Mr. Lloyd " /5

Mr. Fisher fs "v

Mr. _____

Mr. _____

Mr. _____

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. S.

Minister of State

Secretary of State

H. 431.
Please type
envelope to avoid
delay in sending
forward file. MF
"v

Your Reference _____

DRAFT. S.O. Letter

For Mr. Lloyd's signature

Miss J.R. Butler,

F.O. A.A.T.,

Devonshire House,

Mayfair Place,

London, W.1.

Dear Miss Butler,

I do not know if Ritchie has passed over to you yet the Acting Governor of Cyprus' priority savingram No. 454, but it has been agreed with the Treasury and with Ritchie that Cyprus should make an announcement as in the second enclosure to

A copy of this statement is enclosed for the Acting Governor's savingram and that ease of reference.

Eritrea should be asked to make a statement at a time to be ^{concluded} agreed between Cyprus and Eritrea on the lines of Appendix III to the ^(also enclosed) first enclosure to the savingram except that the final paragraph ^{should, h} now reads:

"Persons who have applied to go to other countries will be able to do so from Cyprus on the same terms as at present, viz. they will be required to produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there and that they have accommodation; and in the case of Greece, Turkey and Egypt, to recognise that they will forfeit any right to receive relief in future as a distressed British subject. In such cases passage money will be provided as hitherto."

FURTHER ACTION.

Copy of 11 flagged
behind (59) *It has also been
agreed mar*

/We

We would be grateful, provided you
have no objection, if you would inform
B.M.A., Asmara, that they should make the
announcement as amended above at a time

to be agreed in concert with Cyprus, *and preferably*
as soon as possible after (if not simultaneously with) Cyprus'
Yours sincerely, *own announcement.*

PRIORITY.SAVING.MEDITERRANEAN
- 6 MAY 1949
REGISTRY

From the Acting Governor of Cyprus.

To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

No. 454.....

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dated.....3rd May, 1949.....

Ans 62

(55)

My telegram No. 255 Confidential. MALTESE.

Encl. I

My representative has now returned from Eritrea and I enclose two copies of his report.

(20)

Encl. II.

2. Several matters mentioned in the report require consideration but the most urgent is that of publicity in Cyprus. I regard it as important that information on the coming of these Maltese should first reach the public through an official announcement and you will note that news of the proposed transfer has already leaked out in Eritrea. It was my earlier intention to publish a comprehensive statement of the events and arguments preceding the decision to accommodate the Maltese in Cyprus and, as you are aware, I proposed to use your own despatch, No.41 confidential of the 2nd of March, as a basis for the statement. I have now, however, come to the conclusion that while there remains any hope that their reception in Cyprus will not be made the target for exaggerated criticism, it would be wise to limit the announcement to the baldest possible terms. I enclose a draft text, upon which I should be grateful for your comments by telegram.

[A further factor causing me to favour brevity is the possibility of a charge being made that at the time of the evacuation there was discrimination in favour of the Maltese and against the Cypriots who were left in Greece. I have no doubt that such a charge would be un-

/founded

and 77

AND

founded or that, in the alternative, discrimination was entirely fortuitous, but I have no knowledge of the circumstances and if you can furnish me with the appropriate reply to any such charge, I shall be grateful.7

3. You will note from paragraph 11 of the report that no public statement is contemplated in Eritrea and you will no doubt agree that the type of statement which is to be made here is inappropriate as the basis for an announcement to the evacuees themselves. Nor does there seem to be any reason why the Cyprus statement should not, if necessary, be made before the camp announcement especially since the intention to move is already known in the camp. The draft at Appendix III of the report seems to be adequate but as is explained in the report itself the implied decisions to exclude non-Maltese evacuees and to allow further repatriations to Greece and Turkey require approval. Unless you are unwilling to accept the recommendations of my reporting officer, whose conclusions I support, I suggest that the Chief Administrator, B.A.E., should be asked through the Foreign Office to issue the camp notice.

4. As regards the disposal of those persons who are not of Maltese origin (paragraph 5 of the report) I offer no comment, since, they being in different case, you will doubtless wish to give them separate consideration.

5. As to permitting repatriations to Greece and Turkey there would seem to be no justification in obstructing persons from going provided they can satisfy the conditions which have previously been enforced; indeed apart from refusing to provide passage and pocket money there would be no way of preventing a person from leaving whose papers are in order. The number who wish to return to the Balkans may well decrease once they know

/that

that Cyprus offers a permanent home but I trust that I shall be authorised to continue to facilitate individual applications and where they are successful pay allowances to cover the journey.

6. A further point arising out of the report is that concerning those Maltese who may be legally repatriable to Malta. From the Foreign Office telegram quoted in paragraph 6 of the report it appears that the classes of persons whom the Malta Government are prepared to accept are even more restricted than I had been led to suppose. I do not intend to press for the return to Malta of anyone who is not legally repatriable but I should be grateful if you would ascertain and inform me of the exact legal position.

7. Steps are now being taken to prepare one of the Jewish Camp sites formerly used by British administration staff. I shall address you separately on the financial arrangements which will have to be made with the Commissioner, Jewish Camps but, as it will be essential to acquire huts and equipment from other Jewish Camp sites, I should be grateful if you would immediately authorize Sir Godfrey Collins by telegram to make materials available as a special transaction outside the disposal arrangements which he is otherwise following.

8. I shall also address you separately in due course on my proposals for helping the party to settle in Cyprus but at present my preoccupation is with the actual transfer and the initial reception.

9. It is apparent that Mr. Dutton performed his task in Eritrea with expedition and discretion, a fact which I take pleasure in bringing to your notice.

Acting Governor.

Transfer of British Evacuees from Eritrea to Cyprus.

As directed I visited Eritrea (from the 22nd April to the 26th April) to discuss the transfer of the Maltese refugees with the Chief Administrator and his staff. My outward journey was broken in Cairo in order to consult the Consul General but I obtained little information there which was not later given to me in greater detail by the British Administration, Eritrea. I did however learn for the first time that some of the evacuees were not of Maltese extraction and under normal consular procedure were eligible for repatriation to the United Kingdom. I was also informed that the Australian Government after the recent arrival of a number of Maltese from Eritrea had indicated that they were unsatisfactory immigrants and in future similar persons would be treated as non-British immigrants, i. e. they would have to produce guarantors and obtain special entry permits.

2. My work in Eritrea fell under three heads viz:-

- (1) to establish what categories of evacuees should be transferred to Cyprus;
- (2) to come to agreement with B.A.E. on various matters requiring joint decisions in connexion with the move; and
- (3) to obtain information on the sort of problems which the reception and initial accommodation of the evacuees would raise.

3. I collected much detailed information especially in connexion with the third head and will record it in note form outside this report. I have also begun to formulate in my own mind proposals for the settlement of the party after their arrival but, except in so far as such proposals affect reception arrangements, they will best be left for separate submission after discussion with the Departments concerned.

/Categories

Categories to be accepted.

4. Before I left Cyprus it had already been finally decided that the "British subjects of Maltese extraction" in the Eritrean refugee camp would be accepted in Cyprus as permanent residents. Assurances had been received that all possible steps had been taken to reduce the numbers involved and it was not therefore my intention to try to find arguments for whittling down the size of the party. I only proposed to follow up the question as to whether some persons were eligible for repatriation to Malta (the S. of S. had taken this up as in para. 2 (c) of his telegram No. 248) and to find out what, if any, transfers to other countries, than Cyprus were in train. Both these matters are mentioned below but my intention not to go further had to be abandoned when the information I had received in Cairo was confirmed and it transpired that the Cyprus Government had not received an accurate description of all the persons whom B.A.E. expected to transfer.

5. The camp is more correctly described as one for British evacuees and not for Maltese evacuees since there are some 34 families consisting of 60 persons out of a total of 470 who have no connections whatsoever with Malta and whose British nationality stems from their own, their husbands' or their parents' birth in the U.K. Because the whole question of admitting the party to Cyprus had been considered in Executive Council on the understanding that they were of Maltese extraction and because these 60 persons are automatically eligible for repatriation to the U.K. I made it clear that Cyprus had not agreed to accept persons other than those of Maltese origin. As a result the telegram at Appendix 1 was despatched by B.A.E. It is probably true that most of these persons have now no

/connections

connections in the U.K. (nor have they any in Cyprus) but they were never mentioned in any of the correspondence on the Maltese; their acceptance would constitute an additional commitment; and by taking over H.M.G.'s direct responsibility for them as D.B.S.'s of U.K. origin, any possible success which we may ultimately achieve in permanently settling and rehabilitating those of Maltese extraction would be lessened because the number requiring assistance would be increased. Some confusion may have been caused locally in Eritrea by the fact that B.A.E. was unaware that Cyprus had agreed to provide a final home for the Maltese and was under the impression that only another temporary refugee camp would be provided.

6. As regards those Maltese who may be legally repatriable to Malta, I was shown a Foreign Office telegram which sought information on this matter presumably as a result of our representations. The telegram asked for the number of evacuees who were "born in Malta or whose parents at that time (the time of birth) were ordinarily resident in Malta". The telegram added that this category was recognised as belonging to Malta under the Maltese Emigration Ordinance. There are no such persons in the camp but it will be noticed that the information asked for by the Foreign Office was not in respect of Maltese of "the first generation" whom we had thought, and the Secretary of State had agreed in para ~~Para 2(c)~~ 2(c) of the telegram mentioned above, would be eligible for ~~Reds 90-89~~ repatriation. The wording of the Foreign Office telegram, however, sounds as if it was taken straight from the relevant Maltese Ordinance and I doubt whether there is any case for insisting that those persons whose fathers were born in Malta should be admitted to Malta instead of being sent here. Nevertheless, I have asked for a list to be prepared of the

/individuals ...

individuals whose fathers were born in Malta and this will be sent. At the same time I indicated to B.A.E. that we would not seek to hold up the transfer whilst the question was being settled and I suggest that if it turns out that there are persons whom Malta must legally accept they can be sent from Cyprus. In the meanwhile clarification can be obtained.

7. The remaining matter in connection with the number of evacuees who are to make Cyprus their final home as opposed to a transit camp is of some importance. In his ~~Rs. 47-46 and~~ despatch No. 41 of the 2nd March, 1949, the Secretary of ~~41-40~~ State explained at paras 3 and 9 that attempts to return to Greece and Turkey should be discouraged. He recognised however that it would not be possible to impose peculiar restrictions and reference was made to "large scale migration" not to moves by individual family groups. I found that arrangements had been made and were being made in Eritrea to enable evacuees who could obtain entry visas and guarantees of maintenance sworn before a British Consul in the country concerned to return to Turkey and Greece. This action had the approval and assistance of the Foreign Office and is in accordance with normal consular practice. Persons repatriated in this way sign an undertaking renouncing any future claim to relief but have their passages paid and, I believe, are also given pocket money for the journey. A number of such cases are in various stages of investigation and a batch is expected to depart very soon. New applications will almost certainly be made and many of the Maltese, who already have knowledge of their probable move to Cyprus, regard the Island as a stepping stone to the Balkans. The questions therefore arise whether B.A.E. should :-

- (i) despatch to Greece and Turkey evacuees whose papers are completed;
- (ii) continue to facilitate the consideration of outstanding applications, and
- (iii) accept new applications.

My view is that we should not try to prevent in Cyprus what was allowed in Eritrea but present practice is not on the face of it entirely in keeping with what is proposed by the Secretary of State for the future. I think the point should be cleared up to avoid difficulties later. It is important because should there have to be any change (which will in any case make the evacuees more difficult to handle) it should be announced early and old applications should not continue to be dealt with or new ones accepted if the Cyprus Government is to be required to discourage entry into Greece and Turkey after the transfer. Moreover one of the first reactions of the camp inmates when an announcement is made will be to ask whether the transfer to Cyprus jeopardises their chances of returning to Turkey and Greece under the present system, and it is understandably the attitude of B.A.E. that any statement should include the answer to this question or otherwise there will be trouble in the camp. As will be seen in paragraphs 11 and 12 below dealing with the question of publicity I have for the moment presumed that persons will still be allowed to go. Apart from the desirability of keeping the numbers to be assimilated in Cyprus as low as possible in their own interests I cannot see how an abrupt change in policy could be justified and to do so without demonstrable justification will make more difficult the task of reception and settlement in Cyprus in that the evacuees will be disgruntled and uncooperative. I understand that B.A.E. will raise the question, as it affects them, with the F.O. We will have to do the same with the S. of S.

8. I should mention that it is only within recent months that attempts have been made to resettle evacuees from Eritrea in other countries. From January 1948, when the party arrived in Eritrea, until September, B.A.E. were without instructions about the action to be taken on resettlement or repatriation. Efforts to reduce the numbers since the Indian period have not therefore been prolonged

nor are all possibilities necessarily exhausted. I was left far from convinced that only a hard core remains: given more time and earlier guidance B.A.E. might have got more away. I have arranged that all the records of outstanding applications for admission to other countries together with any personal documents or history sheets will be handed over

Points agreed with B.A.E.

9. At Appendix II is a brief note drawn up at the end of my visit. Items (i), (ii), and (iv), need no further comment. From item (v) it will be seen that the present Camp Commandant will not carry on in Cyprus: he does not wish to and would not be entirely suitable. I will mention in my Supplementary notes what sort of person we should try to appoint. There remain items (iii) and (vi) on the date of transfer and the publicity to be given.

10. In addition to a strong desire to be rid of a party of rather troublesome people whose original stay was expected to last no longer than two months and whose safety causes some concern (one evacuee was murdered recently by a bandit) B.A.E. must reduce the number of persons who will have to be evacuated from Eritrea when its future is decided. The likelihood of an early decision seems to have faded but so many different groups may have to leave eventually that B.A.E. wish to make a start immediately on those whose presence places a burden on the Administration. We agreed on the 1st July as a target date since, in the less urgent circumstances, it satisfies B.A.E. but should give Cyprus time to prepare. I have however reserved the right to put the date back if the D.P.W. cannot have a camp ready by then. The final date will be fixed by B.A.E. not only because it will be their responsibility to arrange transport but also because they will wish to get away all the camp inmates at the same time and the disposal of the 60 persons mentioned in para 5 above may not be settled in time to move them at the date convenient for /the transfer.....

the transfer of the Maltese. .

11. The publicity required on the transfer makes two separate statements necessary. In Cyprus the public must be given brief and general official information before any leak of the news leads to rumours which would be even more embarrassing than the criticism which is expected in any event. (I understand such a statement has been drafted during my absence). In Eritrea there is no public interest in the evacuees and it is intended to do no more than post a notice in the camp for the information of the evacuees. The camp announcement will however have to be more explicit than the Cyprus communique since on it will depend the evacuees' attitude towards their move. At the same time it is essential that we should avoid any statement which may cause misunderstanding in the future. I became somewhat anxious in Eritrea lest those immediately responsible for running the camp might seek to obtain willing co-operation and a trouble free departure by making hasty statements about the future which would later be quoted as authoritative promises. Accordingly I left behind a short draft notice, attached as Appendix III, which I think says enough for the present. Nevertheless parts of it require consideration as is mentioned below. B.A.E. will not be able to make any announcement until the existing prohibition is cancelled by the F.O. and this is convenient as the terms of the statement can be considered at the same time. I believe the text of the Cyprus statement is to be referred to the S. of S. and I suggest that the text of the camp announcement should be sent with it. There is not however any reason why authority to issue the former should await examination of the latter, and it is important that both should now be published without delay because the leakage of news in Eritrea might result in the Cypriot public first hearing about the move from unofficial sources and in Eritrea the evacuees are becoming restive in the absence of official confirmation.

12. My draft statement is neither very detailed nor elaborate and I deliberately did not attempt to be explicit at this stage about future plans for resettlement. It will however be noted that I have sought from the outset to indicate, albeit in general terms, that Cyprus is not just providing yet another refugee camp but is to afford a final home. I have used the expression "reception camp" and I am quite convinced that it should be our policy to disperse the immigrants to various towns as soon as possible. The two points requiring consideration in that they reflect decisions are

- (i) the exclusion of those who are not evacuees of Maltese extraction (para 5 above refers), and
- (ii) the assumption that repatriations to Greece and Turkey will be allowed to continue (para 7 above refers).

General Information.

13. I have obtained a detailed estimate of the number of rooms etc. required. Considerable additions will be needed to the Jewish Camp Administration site but there is no other possible place available and a new camp could not be prepared in the time available nor would it be justifiable to spend the extra money. The accommodation here will certainly not be as good as that in Eritrea but fortunately we can regard the camp as a temporary reception centre and the evacuees are very anxious to get away from bandits and isolation. There are in Eritrea at present 470 persons but in addition to the 60 who are not of Maltese origin others are expected to be sent elsewhere in the near future. It seems possible therefore that we shall have to cater for less than 400.

14. Nothing I heard or saw led me to believe that the impression of a collection of shiftless people given by the correspondence on them was in any way incorrect. Some are a great deal better than others but there seems to be a general tendency to clamour for the rights of British subjection and screw the last penny out of the charity box.

/Reading

Reading the petitions and representations of their Central Committee forcibly reminded me of dealings with the Jews. The percentage of aged and infirm had not been exaggerated and daily visits to the camp by a doctor are necessary. There are about 125 children under 16 years and many youths who have never had any employment. I regret to say I found it necessary to ask for a list of V.D. cases as the number affected warrants the Medical Department being forewarned. Unquestionably the only hope of rehabilitating those who are capable of becoming useful citizens is in removing them from the atmosphere of a refugee camp but it will be a hard struggle to efface the results of ^{their} having lived so long with nothing more to do than argue about the amount of public relief to which they were entitled.

15. My detailed notes include particulars of the allowances and services which are at present provided; equipment available or required; accounting procedure; and some idea of the way in which the existing camp is run. Here I will only mention that in Eritrea the Department of Labour is responsible for the evacuees and I see advantage in our considering a similar allocation of responsibility in Cyprus.

16. I should like to end this report by recording how very helpful all the B.A.E. officers were: their willingness to help exceeded even what could be expected from those interested in unloading an unpleasant commitment.

Am J 7/5

APPENDIX I. to Report
on Maltese Evacuees.

25th April, 1949.

IMPORTANT.

SECRET.

FOREIGN OFFICE.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Your telegram No. DEPTH 6 of 7th April
subject MALTESE.

- ONE. CYPRUS Government representative now here says his Government have agreed accept only those of Maltese origin.
- TWO. There are 34 families comprising 60 persons not of Maltese origin as mentioned in our telegram No. DEPTH 25 of 13th April. These will not be accepted.
- THREE. Nevertheless as whole object is to remove all repeat all these displaced persons from Eritrea as soon as possible owing to political situation request that Cyprus Government be asked to accept these 34 families as well. Majority of these persons though British subjects have no connections in United Kingdom and do not wish to be sent there. They cannot be left in Eritrea.
- FOUR. Please ask Colonial Office to repeat this telegram to Cyprus Government for information.

APPENDIX II. to Report
on Maltese Evacuees.

MALTESE TO CYPRUS.

C.S.,

As a result of discussions with the Cyprus Government representative it has been agreed that:-

- (i) Cyprus will accept all those of Maltese origin. A separate directive has been requested from the F.O. with regard to the remaining 60 persons of U.K. origin.
- (ii) B.A. Eritrea will be responsible for the evacuees until their arrival in Cyprus.
- (iii) Cyprus Government will inform us the earliest date they are able to accept the evacuees dependant on the preparation of camp site, provisionally 1st July, 1949. Final E.T.A. will be arranged by B.A. Eritrea.
- (iv) Shipping arrangements to be made by B.A.E.; if possible a special ship being chartered.
- (v) An advance party of about 4 responsible evacuees will go to Cyprus about 2 weeks in advance of the main party to arrange the camp and assist with preparations for reception of main party. Mr. Shaw to act as conducting Officer of main party, and to remain in Cyprus until handover to Camp Commandant completed.
- (vi) An announcement concerning the move will not be made until authority received from F.O. when evacuees will be informed in the lines suggested by Mr. Dutton.

(N.B. Those who already have their documents in order for repatriation to Greece or Turkey may be told that the move will not jeopardise their chances of returning to those countries). Those of U.K. origin who may not be acceptable to the Cyprus Government will be told that their case is under consideration.

A/Pol.Sec.

AHS/GG.

Asmara, 25/4/1949.

* Reservation made by Cyprus representative that position should first be cleared with F.O.

APPENDIX III to Report
on Maltese Evacuees.

STATEMENT to be made, when authorised, to inmates
of MAI HABAR CAMP.

The Cyprus Government at the request of H.M.G. has agreed to accept all those British evacuees who are of Maltese extraction. They will be admitted to the Island as permanent residents and will be encouraged to obtain employment. Whilst any person is finding employment, learning a trade, or where he or she is not capable of earning a living relief allowance will continue to be paid.

Initially the whole party will be accommodated in a reception camp. The date of departure from Eritrea will largely depend on the time it takes to get this camp ready.

Persons who have applied to go to other countries and are able to obtain permission to enter them will not be prevented from doing so if they produce evidence that they can support themselves or be supported there but emigration to such countries as Greece, Turkey and to Egypt will only be permitted after the emigrant has explicitly recognised that by going he will forfeit any right to receive relief in the future as a destitute British subject.

Draft communiqué

In 1941, when the enemy was advancing through the Balkans, and the invasion of European Turkey as well as Greece seemed imminent, efforts were made to evacuate British subjects from the threatened territory. Among those who were successfully withdrawn, there were some whose permanent accommodation has presented prolonged difficulty. They are of Mediterranean origin, the descendants of Maltese, who had long abandoned their mother tongue to speak instead Greek or Turkish, and who had become largely assimilated to the populations of the areas in which they lived.

In the succeeding years these unfortunate people have been accommodated in various refugee camps. In many cases it was possible to arrange for their resettlement elsewhere, but there still remain some 400 persons, now in a camp in Eritrea. Conditions in Greece, in particular, do not favour their return to that country, and in any case they have not the means to support themselves. Many of them, moreover, are aged and infirm. Their language and background make it probable that they would find a readier chance of returning to normal life in Cyprus than in any other territory available to them, and in these circumstances the Government of Cyprus has agreed to give them asylum in the Island. They will arrive a few months hence and will at first be accommodated in a reception centre in the quarters formerly used by troops administering the Jewish Camps.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have accepted full financial responsibility for the transfer and maintenance of the whole party. No charge will fall upon Cyprus funds.

